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Blair to hold ballot on manifesto

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is to ballot every member of his party on his general election manifesto in an unprecedented move to prevent a Labour government running into internal trouble that could damage its chances of survival.

Mr Blair disclosed yesterday that all 365,000 members would be consulted next autumn in a referendum on a draft manifesto setting out Labour's priorities for the first years of government. The manifesto will then be fine-tuned in the weeks before the election.

The paper will not include detailed tax proposals — to be

unveiled just before a general election — but any spending pledges will be costed alongside plans to switch resources from existing programmes.

Mr Blair is determined to go into the campaign with a clear party mandate for the controversial policies he has introduced in his efforts to modernise the party. He hopes that mass support for the plans will bind the party together and protect him from damaging recriminations should he win power.

Previous Labour governments, including the Callaghan adminis-

tration after the winter of discontent in 1979, were brought down because they could not satisfy the demands of the unions and activists and Mr Blair is determined to prevent a repeat.

The referendum is one of the biggest consultation exercises ever mounted, mirroring last year's Clause Four ballot when Mr Blair won resounding backing for his plans to change the party's constitution.

Each member will be able to vote for or against the document, but there will be no provision to amend

parts of the manifesto. Trade unionists will not be balloted unless they are full party members, and the exercise will inevitably be seen as another attempt to limit the powers of the unions even though they will be able to vote on the programme at this year's party conference. Some union leaders yesterday derided the ballot as irrelevant.

But the idea has the overwhelming support of the party's national executive and Mr Blair said: "For the first time a political party will be entering a general election with a reformed welfare state; political change with de-

volved power and a modern constitution and leadership in Europe.

This will give the party an opportunity actively to pledge their support for the Labour programme for government. It will nail forever any doubt that we are anything other than new Labour."

He was speaking at the launch of a document, *The Road to the Manifesto*, outlining the four main pillars on which policy will be built: economic opportunity in a world of increasing insecurity; a one-nation society with a reformed welfare state; political change with de-

volved power and a modern constitution and leadership in Europe.

Over the past year Mr Blair has presided over a number of policy changes, including plans to withdraw benefit from workshy youngsters, a retreat from plans for a mandatory training levy and a softening of the party's opposition to grant-maintained schools and GP fundholding.

Many of these are to be detailed in separate policy papers, which will be culled in June to form the basis of the early manifesto draft that will go to the party conference

in October and the national ballot a few weeks later.

Leadership sources are confident that Mr Blair will get backing for the programme, but they are worried that there could be a low turnout in the referendum. They believe that at least 70 per cent of members need to take part with a high vote in favour, for Mr Blair to be able to claim a mandate.

While a defeat is unlikely, some MPs expressed concern that the ballot will be on the combined policies, rather than individual proposals, which could prompt members to reject the package.

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Support for Tories firm in spite of BSE row

By PETER RIDDELL

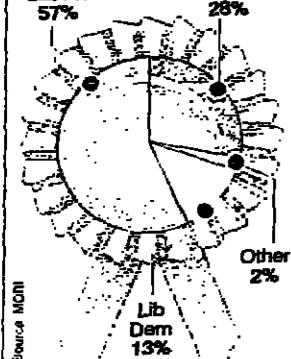
SUPPORT for the Tories has held up in the first opinion poll published since the beef row erupted. But Labour and Tony Blair continue to enjoy their highest ratings since last July, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken between last Friday and this Monday, shows that the Tories are now on 28 per cent, two points higher than a month ago when the party was hit by the arguments over the Scott report. This is the same level as at the New Year. Fears over beef have not yet had an adverse impact on their ratings.

Support for Labour has been unchanged over the past month at 57 per cent, the highest level since July. Mr Blair's personal rating is also the highest since then. The public is satisfied with his performance by two-to-one margin. Liberal Democrat support has slipped one point to 13 per cent, though Paddy Ashdown's personal rating remains positive.

MORI interviewed 1,910 adults face-to-face at 143 ward sampling points across Britain between March 22 to 25. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (9 per cent) or who refuse to name a party (3 per cent).

Q How would you vote if there were a general election tomorrow?
Labour 57% Conservative 28% Other 13%



Handbags away: New uniforms being modelled yesterday by sailors Penny Taylor and Neil Morris and below, the old-style bell-bottoms

Naval flare-up saves bell-bottoms

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Navy bell-bottom trousers have been saved by an outcry in the Senior Service that was so great female sailors will now wear them as well.

But the new rule means that for the first time, they will not be allowed to carry handbags.

After a review of all naval uniforms, female ratings — no longer officially called Wrens — will wear the same traditional flared trousers and square rig tops as their male counterparts.

The reprieve for bell-bottoms was ordered despite a decision by the naval review team to swap flares for straight trouser legs because, it thought, the wider bottoms smacked of 70s styles. However, sailors used as guinea pigs for the new uni-

forms said straight trousers looked too ordinary and demanded their flares back.

Female ratings who currently wear a double-breasted jacket and either trousers or skirts, depending on whether they are aboard ship or ashore, will now wear the square rig outfit. It will be tailored to "fit the female form", according to Commander David Hobbs, who led the review. "And there will be no more handbags," he said.

Among other changes, officers are to be formally entitled to wear a kilt in the wardroom. The Scottish ancestry of Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the First Sea Lord, may have played a part in winning recognition for the kilt. The Navy Board said the prac-

tice of wearing the kilt was "harmless, colourful and supported by several very senior officers".

Trials are also to be launched to replace the gold lace in officers' sleeves and on their caps with a synthetic material.

One item which was scrapped more than 20 years ago has been revived: a black silk scarf worn by naval gunners to absorb the sweat of battle is to be included in the new outfit. The silk scarves date back to 1540, but in a 1970 clothing review they were replaced by a pullover which had a silk facing in the collar.

Bell-bottoms were first worn in 1857 and survived despite fashion changes until the 1970s, when slightly more modest

flares were introduced.

The bell-bottoms were 20 inches wide, covering the boot and swinging in the wind as sailors came down the gangplank.

The new flared trouser will be 18-20 inches wide, which compares with the average civilian trouser of between 16 inches and 18 inches.

The old bell-bottoms were designed principally to enable the sailor to roll them up in the days when seamen scrubbed the decks in their bare feet. They were also easier to remove if a man fell overboard.

The concertina pleats also made it easy for seamen to fold their bell-bottoms neatly and stow them away.



Captives freed as hijackers give in

Hijackers who forced an Egyptian aircraft to fly from Luxor to Libya surrendered last night and released their 150 captives.

The EgyptAir Airbus A320 was seized en route to Cairo. Egyptian sources said the hijackers claimed to be carrying a message from God for Egypt's President Mubarak and President Clinton.

Similar reports were circulating in France, where native meat is now tagged with red, white and blue flags declaring that it has been reared on vegetable feed. Merchants still reported a 30 per cent drop in sales and wholesalers said that orders had fallen by 60 per cent in spite of the unilateral boycott of British beef imposed by many countries last week and the formal export ban confirmed by the

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Shephard backs sixth-form exam reforms

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

GILLIAN SHEPHARD yesterday signalled the biggest shake-up in sixth-form study for more than 40 years when she ordered a tightening of A-level standards and introduced qualifications framework linking vocational and academic courses.

Accepting a raft of recommendations from a year-long review by Sir Ron Dearing, the Education and Employment Secretary announced an eight-point programme of intermediate action. Some reforms will be launched before the end of next year.

Among the innovations will be a national diploma encompassing academic and work-related qualifications, for which students will have to study at least four different courses. Higher-level vocational qualifications will be renamed Applied A Levels in an attempt to raise their status.

Labour said last night many of Sir Ron's proposals echoed its own plans for qualifica-

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'New-style' CJD case reported in France as beef ban is confirmed

By BEN MACINTYRE, RICHARD OWEN PHILLIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A FRENCH victim of Creutzfeld-Jakob disease may have died of the same strain of the illness as the British patients whose cases have been linked to "mad cow" disease, it was reported yesterday.

The deaths of five Italians from CJD were also disclosed for the first time yesterday and doctors said they believed that two others had been killed by the brain disorder.

France has about 50 cases of CJD each year, but the young victim in Lyons was the first to have shown the same new symptoms as the British cases, *Le Monde* reported. The patient, who has not been identified, was one of two people aged under 40 diagnosed with the disease this year, and tests were being

carried out to see if the circumstances of the death were identical to those linked with "mad cow" disease in Britain.

French government officials have hitherto maintained that no case of CJD in France could be linked to the new strain of the disease, but the scientists carrying out tests in the Lyons case refused to comment until the post-mortem examination was complete. French health officials insisted, however, that neither of the young patients was believed to have contracted CJD through eating beef.

At least two of the Italian victims were older, but the cases came to light only because of the public alarm that has seen the meat market collapse. Supermarkets and butchers said that beef sales were down by 30 per cent and still falling, and the head of the Italian Butchers' Federation accused the media of "information terrorism".



Help! It's spreading quicker than we expected

Leading importers praised

the quality of British beef, veal

and lamb and complained

that Britain was being unfairly

targeted. Others suggested

that British beef was being

smuggled across European

borders with fraudulent Irish

certificates.

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Chelsea MP admits drink-driving

Sir Nicholas Scott banned from road for leaving crash

By MICHAEL HORNELL

SIR Nicholas Scott, the former Minister for the Disabled, was fined £450 and banned from driving for 12 months after he left an accident where a child's pushchair was trapped between cars. He was also ordered to pay prosecution costs of £450.

The Conservative MP for Chelsea was said to have emerged from the three-car shunt as if he were in a trance. Sir Nicholas, 62, drank up to three glasses of white wine when he made a speech at a party in his west London constituency before the accident.

Sir Nicholas admitted drink-driving but denied failing to stop after the accident in Sydney Street, Chelsea.

Roger Davies, stipendiary magistrate at Horseferry Road Court, central London, found that the MP had failed to remain at the scene after driving his red Volvo into another parked Volvo which hit the buggy and trapped it against a jaguar.

In the pushchair was Thibault Perreard, aged three years and eleven months, the son of a Swiss banker.

Yves Perreard, 37, who was with his wife, told the court that he shouted "stop, stop" and waved his arms at the car that caused the accident. After rescuing his son he was unable to find the driver. His son was crying. In attempting to free the boy from the trapped buggy he twisted his ankle.

Sir Nicholas said that he walked 400 yards to the local constituency association headquarters to telephone emergency services, leaving Patricia Sill-Johnstone, his secretary, to take care of

matters. He did not leave his name with anybody because he assumed everyone knew who he was.

The magistrate interrupted the MP's evidence to query why he had walked 400 yards to make his call when he could have stopped at a public telephone or at restaurants on the way.

Sir Nicholas failed to telephone from his headquarters because the building was closed. Without stopping at the scene of the accident, he then walked to the home of his doctor.

There he drank a glass of whisky offered to him while a call was made to police telling officers where he could be interviewed.

A blood test revealed 98 milligrams of alcohol to 100 millilitres of blood, the limit being 80 milligrams.

Dean Ramsey, a local resident who was taking a walk, said that when he knocked on the window of Sir Nicholas's

car he could get no response. "The defendant looked like somebody who had had too much to drink. He looked like he was about to go to sleep. His eyes were closing."

Michele Palmera, a mechanic from east London who was driving past, told the court that a woman at the scene was verbally abusing people.

She allegedly called Mr Perreard "French scum" and asked the crowd that had gathered to disperse at once.

Sir Nicholas told the court

that after returning from constituency headquarters he was on his way back to the scene of the accident but realised there was commotion and turmoil. A woman was shouting: "Lock him up, lock him up." He did not wish to inflame the crowd by returning.

"I thought it was better for me not to hang around, not least because of this woman's behaviour which was increasingly erratic," he said.

The magistrate told Sir Nicholas: "You had no idea at that stage of the damage that might have been caused to the cars or what possible harm might have occurred to the child. There was an obligation for you to remain on the spot for a period of time. That you failed to do."

□ Sir Nicholas, as Minister for the Disabled, had a public fallout with his daughter Victoria after he admitted he misled MPs when he denied that his department had been involved in tactics designed to kill the Disability Bill in 1994.

Victoria, a lobbyist for disabled rights, denounced her father and supported calls for him to resign.



Scott: assumed he was known to everyone



Decorated masks donated to the Prince's Trust by the cartoonist Bill Tidy, top, Lord Healey, left, and the comedian Ruby Wax. Hundreds of celebrities were sent plain, white masks to decorate however they chose. A selection is on display at Olympia until tomorrow. The full collection will be auctioned in November

Pre-teen children fall prey to shape of fashion models

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN as young as 11 worry about the size and shape of their bodies and are alarmed that the changes taking place at puberty run counter to the dictates of fashion, according to a survey.

Half of girls and a third of boys are concerned about their body image, with twice as many girls as boys wanting to lose weight, the survey of 11 and 12-year-olds found. In many cases the desire for slimness was influenced by the images of fashion models.

The questionnaire survey, published yesterday by the Health Education Authority, was conducted among 536 pupils in three secondary schools. It found that many children undergoing puberty, especially girls, felt they were fat and were alarmed at the unexpected increase in weight.

Girls are particularly concerned about their legs and their stomachs. Many claimed they wanted to be slimmer for themselves, not because they cared about what others thought. One said: "I have photos of me when I was really skinny and dressed up and it really makes me sick to see that I have put on so much weight." The strategies adopted

ed by girls to achieve the ideal shape range through doing very little to taking exercise and to serious attempts at dieting. Dancing or aerobics classes were cited as the "right way" to achieve slimness.

Dieting was seen as particularly difficult at school where children were subject to peer pressure to indulge in snacks and chips, but easier at home.

However, some children — 15 per cent of boys and 11 per cent of girls — say they would like to put on weight. One in 15 children of both sexes felt they were too thin.

Parents interviewed for the survey felt that their children's worries about being overweight were unfounded. They tried to reassure them by explaining that weight problems ran in the family or were a natural phase of adolescence.

Parents were reluctant to start their children on diets, because of fears about anaemia. The survey, included in a report *Health Promotion and the Family*, found parents felt ill-equipped to discuss subjects such as body image, sex and depression with their adolescent children.

Two wronged parties make a right for jilted minister

By RUTH GLEDDILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A BAPTIST minister whose wife set up home with their gardener has decided to remarry — and has chosen the gardener's former wife. The Rev Dennis Mickelsen said that his bride, Joan Stannard, was like him, a "wronged party".

Mr Mickelsen, who was last year evicted from his home after he refused to pay a divorce settlement, was devastated when his former wife Audrey, 69, walked out on their 41-year marriage and set up home with Peter Fisk, their gardener, in 1990.

The two couples were once great friends and used to go on drives and outings together. Mr Mickelsen will now marry Mrs Stannard, who was married to Mr Fisk for 42 years but reverted to her maiden name after her divorce, at his church in Sutton, Suffolk, where he has been pastor for 28 years.

Mr Mickelsen, 72, had said he was prepared to go to jail rather than pay a penny towards the £109,500 divorce settlement to his wife, with whom he had four children. He later obeyed a court order to pay his former wife £20,000, half the proceeds of the home, and £625 a month for five years. "I bear no

animosity to any person on this earth including those who have wronged me. But although I sent letters and flowers to my wife after she left, I had no other communication with her apart from two chance meetings at a garage," Mr Mickelsen said.

"I waited and prayed for six years for her to come back. Then I felt in my heart that I could be happy with Joan who like me is also a wronged party. We feel a common bond of Christian faith which is the best union that there can be."

He added: "The Bible says that a marriage can only end if there has been unfaithfulness and there has in this

case. Other ministers and people might think differently but I think there is a place for remarriage when the circumstances are genuine."

Mr Mickelsen said his marriage plans had met with "a favourable and happy" response from his congregation. Mrs Stannard said: "I am very happy to be with Dennis. Our lives will be full again. We have been friends for a long time but we only got serious recently."

The couple plan to live in Mrs Stannard's sheltered accommodation flat in Woodbridge. Their former partners have not married but live 12 miles away at Otley, near Ipswich.

Mr Coupland, who suffers from asthma, had just been released from hospital when the officer arrived with a warrant from Aldershot magistrates.

She said: "When I was eventually brought before the court I couldn't stand up. I was still holding my nebuliser mask to my face. I nearly passed out."

Money for wronged arrest 'ridiculous'

By ADRIAN LEE

A WOMAN who was ordered out of her sickbed and wrongfully arrested over two unpaid parking fines described an offer of £150 compensation as ridiculous yesterday.

Caroline Coupland had reported her car stolen at the time the penalties were incurred. But she was told by a police officer that if she did not get dressed and accompany him to court she would be handcuffed.

The mistake was blamed on lost documents and Ms Coupland, 31, of Ash, Surrey, was offered the compensation by Hampshire Magistrates' Court Committee as a "gesture of goodwill". She was told that magistrates, who issued an arrest warrant, have immunity in such cases against claims of false arrest.

Ms Coupland, who suffers from asthma, had just been released from hospital when the officer arrived with a warrant from Aldershot magistrates.

She said: "When I was eventually brought before the court I couldn't stand up. I was still holding my nebuliser mask to my face. I nearly passed out."

Lincoln's burghers offer sanctuary to outlawed Robin

By ANDREW PIERCE

LINCOLN has offered a new home to Robin Hood, who faces being outlawed from Nottingham because he is out of date. Civic chiefs in Lincoln are planning to promote its historic links with the enduring hero of British folk history.

Lincoln green, the cloth said to have been worn by Robin and his Merry Men, was woven and dyed in the city. His celebrated robberies of the rich to benefit the poor were conducted, says Lincoln City Council, on the nearby Fosse Way.

More controversially, the city supports the theory advocated by a group of historians that he was not Robin of Loxley, a miller's son, but related to the De Kyme family, which hailed from Lincoln, some 35 miles from Nottingham. Lincoln Cathedral also boasts a medieval manuscript that documents the first connection between Robin and Sherwood Forest.

Geoffrey Ellis, the mayor of Lincoln, said: "We will take full advantage of promoting our connection with the outlaw. If Nottingham does not want him, we certainly do. We will support Robin Hood in every way." But Lincoln will not secure Robin Hood's services without a fight. Only days after the plan to design a new symbol for Nottingham came to light, Robin Hood, alias actor Tim Pollard, was the main attraction at the city's stand at the British trade fair in Birmingham.

Margaret Tillson, Nottingham's tourism promotions officer, was aghast at the proposal to play down links with Robin Hood. She said: "We would not dream of dropping him, as he is so well known worldwide." Mark Alexander, executive director of Nottingham's conference bureau, said that no firm decision had been taken about the outlaw. "A marketing partnership is now looking at an image for Nottingham that would appeal across the board."

Mr Pollard, dressed in a Lincoln green tunic, said: "I hear that some people think Robin Hood is a bit of a soft image for the city. For a person to be thrown aside for having a reputation for being fair, just and honest seems to me to be daft."

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New supplies of non-British beef. **BIG MACS ARE BACK AT McDONALD'S TODAY.**

Last Sunday, in response to public concern about British beef, we withdrew all beef products from our restaurants.

Today, by this evening at the latest, you can again buy hamburgers, Big Macs and quarterpounders at McDonald's.

They are made exclusively of new supplies of non-British beef which come only from established McDonald's suppliers.

So you can be assured that our standards of quality and safety will remain as high as ever.

You can be confident that we will still use only prime cuts of beef. We never have used and never will use offal or mechanically-recovered meat.

We subject all our beef to 40 controls for quality and safety before, during and after production.

These are the standards which we have always believed you have a right to expect. We still believe British beef is safe and we will use it again when public confidence in it has been restored.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience, trust and co-operation during the last few days.

Paul Preston, President and Chief Executive Officer, McDonald's Restaurants Limited.



THE TIMES
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 BY ANDREW COOPER
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Charity chiefs warn RSPCA to tone down experiments protest

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE RSPCA has been told by the Charity Commissioners not to campaign against animal experiments that are considered to be of benefit to mankind. The campaign against the British-financed use of chimpanzees in vivisection in Holland is one of the first casualties of the ruling.

The society is re-examining its opposition to the use of primates in experiments and two publications that set out ethical arguments for animal

"rights" are also being reviewed.

Some members of the RSPCA ruling council claim that the organisation's campaigning activities will now have to be toned down and restricted to the welfare of animals. Field sports supporters and landowners may now

be status" if it argued that the infliction of pain on animals could not be justified if it was for the good of man.

The charity commission intervened after an article by Michael Sissons, a leading London literary agent, in *Country Life* last November. The commission instructed the RSPCA to respond to criticisms that the society had "surrendered its soul to the animal rights lobby".

Membership has halved to 26,000 in the past 20 years after a series of controversial

moves by the society, including setting out a "declaration of animal rights", attempts to encourage members to become vegetarian, opposition to hunting and the rejection of membership applications from field sport supporters. The charity has published booklets which set out detailed ethical arguments for so-called animal rights. to the annoyance of members who say it has moved away from its animal welfare work.

Angela Walder, a member of the RSPCA council, when

told about the commission ruling, said: "The Charity Commissioners should go to hell." Ms Walder, a vegan, is one of the targets of the society's critics. She has several arrests for public order offences and was expelled from the movement in 1988 for bringing the society into disrepute. She challenged her expulsion in the High Court in 1991, was reinstated and in 1994 was elected to the society's ruling council.

Si David Steel, founder of the Countryside Movement, when

pressure group, said last night: "The commission has told the RSPCA to watch it. A vociferous but effective minority has been engaged in assiduous campaigning for animal rights which offends millions of ordinary countryside lovers. I hope this intervention by the commissioners will reverse an alarming trend. The RSPCA has moved alarmingly away from charity work and into the political arena. It should stick to what it is best at: animal welfare."

A commission spokesman

confirmed that the work of the charity had been kept closely under review but that it had not breached its charitable scope. "There seems to be considerable scope for the RSPCA to continue to campaign against cruelty in cases where that cruelty cannot be justified by a greater benefit conferred on mankind."

A spokeswoman for the RSPCA said: "We have been given a clean bill of health by the commission. We are reviewing our opposition to experiments on primates."

No evidence offered after prosecution weighs up emotional costs of case



Rachel Heath, who was accused of giving poison to her elderly client

Home help cleared of trying to murder cancer sufferer

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

A HOME HELP accused of attempting to murder an elderly cancer sufferer had her case dismissed yesterday after a judge said he would pass only a light sentence if she were convicted.

Rachel Heath, 31, was also charged with administering diamorphine, a poison, to endanger the life of or inflict grievous bodily harm to 71-year-old Kathleen Corfield.

Mrs Heath was a home help and carer for Mrs Corfield, a retired civil servant who had lived in a semi-detached house in Shirley, Southampton, for nearly 30 years. Mrs Corfield, a widow, had terminal cancer of the lung and throat. She had been in Southampton General Hospital for two weeks when she suddenly fell ill in December 1994. The police were called but she died shortly after their arrival.

Mrs Heath had denied attempted murder and poisoning. After discussions in chambers at Winchester Crown Court, the Crown Prosecution Service decided to offer no evidence. Ms Heath, of Woolston, Southampton, wept and hugged friends after the judge, Mr Justice Ognall, dismissed the case. Philip Mott, QC, for the prosecution,

experience for the defendant herself.

"In a case such as this, where the issues go beyond the strictly legal into greater emotive significance, it is not always an easy assessment. Your lordship has very kindly made certain views known about your assessment of the evidence. Even if we prove what is set out, those views must go into the balance and cause a reconsideration of the public interest."

The decision not to continue with the prosecution had been made at a high level within the Crown Prosecution Service, Mr Mott said. He added that there was an additional advantage to the decision: there could be confidence that prosecutions would not be continued simply to take the easy way out and to avoid criticism.

Mr Justice Ognall said that in "the very unusual circumstances" of this case, he was satisfied that had Ms Heath been convicted she would have received a "very small or nominal penalty".

The judge added: "The investigating and prosecution agencies should not be faulted for bringing the matter this far. They would have been failing in their duty if they had done any less. The Crown Prosecution Service has clearly acted responsibly and correctly."



The basilisk lizard, which rarely gets its feet wet

How lizards walk on water with the greatest of ease

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE mystery of how the basilisk lizard runs on water has been solved by two American scientists.

By taking high-speed photographs they have shown that the feet are achieved by extreme speed and dexterity, combined with a power output that is, weight for weight, 15 times greater than human beings can manage.

Basilisk lizards and some shore birds can make rapid progress across water by repeatedly striking the surface with their feet. In the case of the lizards, say Dr Jim Glasheen and Dr Thomas McMahon of Harvard University in *Nature*, the rear feet, driven by powerfully muscled legs, do the work while the lizard stands almost upright.

On each stroke the foot first slaps the water, then drives downwards through it and is finally swiftly withdrawn as the other foot slaps down. The slap produces virtually

little lift, but the downward stroke.

As the foot goes through the water it creates a cavity of air.

The secret is to remove the foot before the cavity collapses. The high-speed film shows that the downward push takes 44 milliseconds, while withdrawing the foot takes 68 milliseconds—so fast that the water does not have time to fill the cavity created by the downward stroke.

The scientists calculate that the power required is 29 watts per kilogram of bodyweight; well within the capacity of the lizard, whose muscles can produce 135 watts per kilogram. The best human beings can do is 20 watts per kg. And a man weighing 13 stone and striking the water with his bare feet would need to move them through the water at a speed of more than 60 miles an hour. The fastest human recorded is Carl Lewis, at 26.95mph.

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Lost evidence that could have saved three lives

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A MENTAL patient with known homicidal tendencies was allowed back into the community where he killed his father and two pensioners, an inquiry found yesterday.

Jason Mitchell, 26, had persuaded a tribunal that he was sane. Evidence that he was a potential killer had either been lost or ignored.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, a former chairman of the Mental Health Commission, made 50 recommendations yesterday, including possibly depriving prisoners of the right to keep medical records confidential.

Mitchell, whose mother left home when he was a child, was a glue-sniffer who became a petty thief. Papers from 1988 produced by a young offenders' institution and prison showed that he was a serious

ly disturbed teenager who believed that television sets talked to him. These records failed to follow him through his next five years of courts and hospitals.

In 1990 a vicar allowed Mitchell to sleep in a church in Epsom, Surrey. The next day, Jim Powell, the 70-year-old church cleaner, was attacked with a baseball bat by Mitchell, who threatened to kill him.

Mitchell later told police he was carrying two knives because voices had told him to kill the vicar. He appeared at the Old Bailey and was sent to West Park psychiatric hospital in Epsom.

Jackie Leaver, an occupational therapist at the hospital, provided a report in 1991 detailing Mitchell's innermost thoughts but the document was dealt with dismissively by

clinicians and other staff. The following year, Mitchell applied for discharge. In 1993 he was transferred to St Clements Hospital in Ipswich, nearer his father's home.

In 1994 Dr Ray Goddard, a consultant psychiatrist, sanctioned Mitchell's release to the community, saying there was no useful purpose in detaining him.

In December of that year Mitchell absconded from his halfway house and broke into the home of Shirley Wilson, a chapel organist and her husband Arthur, a former station master. He killed the couple, both aged 65. Mitchell then went to his father's home 250 yards away in the village of Bramford, Suffolk. He headed and dismembered Bob Mitchell. The killer told police he wanted practice before

killing and eating a younger victim. After being arrested for murder, he appeared ecstatic and sang *'It's a Wonderful Life'* in his cell. Diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, Mitchell was given three life sentences last July and is at Rampton Hospital.

Sir Louis' panel blamed nobody for the triple killings. It recommended that full accounts of criminal acts involving mentally disordered people should become part of their permanent clinical record.

Dr Goddard said yesterday the distress of the case had caused him to question whether he wanted to continue his job. "I think we feel that sometimes we are being scapegoated for a national failure of care in the community," he said.



Jason Mitchell persuaded a tribunal he was sane

Mental health inquiries dismissed as worthless

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

INQUIRIES into mental health blunders such as the Jason Mitchell killings are mostly a waste of time, according to an expert who chairs them. They nearly always reach the same conclusions: nothing is changed, nobody is sacked and they may make matters worse, according to Dr Matt Muijen. About 40 such inquiries are under way at any time.

Dr Muijen, director of the respected Sainsbury Centre for Mental

Health in London, was able to correctly predict the outcome of yesterday's inquiry by Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC. "These inquiries invariably come up with very unoriginal findings," he said. "We know the conclusions... poor communication between agencies, lack of leadership, lack of resources."

"They are supposed to reassure the public, which they don't, and they are intended to improve the system, which they don't."

Dr Muijen has just chaired an

inquiry into the suicides of three men with mental health problems who lived in the community in Southampton. "Inquiry reports, including my one, come up with these findings but they are rarely taken further. You invariably find that some mistakes have been made years earlier. What tends to happen is that the health authority reads the report, thinks about it, considers whether it can allocate more resources and often can't."

"Hardly ever does anybody get

frightened out of their mind." Although Health Department officials are privately worried about the inquiry system, campaigning groups tend to encourage it. Dr Muijen said: "If your whole organisation is concerned with saying that community care is flawed, this is helpful because it gives you ammunition all the time."

He said inquiries should be held only in cases where serious negligence was suspected, rather than automatically as at present.

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He said inquiries should be held only in cases where serious negligence was suspected, rather than automatically as at present.

Nuclear plant hails report

Child leukaemia 'unlikely' to be Sellafield's fault

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria is very unlikely to have caused a leukaemia cluster among children in nearby Seascale, a government committee has concluded.

But it admits that no other single cause can explain the cluster, the subject of repeated official inquiries. Interactions between various factors, including the possibility that leukaemia could be infectious, may be responsible, the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment says.

For four decades, childhood leukaemia has been more common in Seascale than would be expected. There have been eight cases since 1945 of lymphoid leukaemia among those below the age of 25, when less than one would be the norm.

The report reviews data since a committee under Sir Douglas Black examined the issue in 1984. It shows that the excess of cases has continued and remains confined to a very small area. Cumbria as a whole does not show an excess and nor do other areas around Sellafield, where workers at the plant lived.

The committee, chaired by Professor Bryn Bridges, examined the possibility that the Seascale cluster might be due to people moving into the area, bringing with them infectious agents to which they were immune, and mixing with others who were susceptible.

The evidence available at present does not convince us that such a large relative risk persisting over more than three decades could be wholly attributed to population mixing," it concludes.

Professor Bridges speculated that if infection was the



Sellafield power station on the Cumbrian coast

£146,000 lottery prize goes unclaimed

Gardener jailed for assault at council

By ADRIAN LEE

A SMALL fortune will slip through the fingers of one National Lottery player to-night when the deadline expires on the highest unclaimed prize. Unless the player with a ticket bought in Torquay comes forward by midnight, £146,245 plus interest, will go to the lottery's five good causes.

Prize-winners have 180 days to make themselves known to the organiser, Camelot. Since the National Lottery was launched 18 months ago, £32.2 million of unclaimed prizes have gone to good causes and £22.2 million is in Camelot's bank account awaiting claims.

Unclaimed prizes amount to 1 to 2 per cent of the £2 billion paid to winners. Camelot said: "It is terrible that someone could miss out on such a huge prize. It might not be a million but it is the sort of sum which could transform someone's life."

The ticket was bought for the draw on September 30 last year, when the numbers were 10, 11, 29, 32, 33, 40 and the bonus was 16. There was one jackpot winner, who claimed £49.9 million. The holder of the missing ticket chose five correct numbers plus the bonus.

Other prizes waiting to be claimed include £104,746 from the Redhill area of Surrey (January 6 draw); £109,892 from Liverpool (December 16) and £8,970 from Newport, Gwent (February 3).

All the jackpot winners have come forward within a month, although one left his ticket in the pocket of his jeans, where it was discovered on wash day. A player holding a ticket worth £342,000 waited five months. "The ticket-holder was aware he or she had won but was very casual about it," Camelot said.

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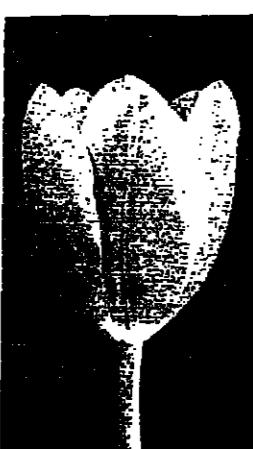
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Clarke thwarts Cabinet debate on referendum

By NICHOLAS WOOD and JAMES LANDALE

KENNETH CLARKE has blocked today's Cabinet meeting from resolving the impasse over a referendum on a single currency. It is understood that the Chancellor has told John Major that he believes that Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, should be present if ministers are to decide an issue of such magnitude.

Mr Rifkind is accompanying the Queen on a state visit to Eastern Europe and will not return to Britain until after joining Mr Major in Turin on Friday for the opening of the inter-governmental conference on the European Union.

The Foreign Secretary has produced a paper on the implications of a referendum, such as collective responsibility and timing. Mr Clarke believes that he should be at the Cabinet table to contribute to the debate. It is understood the Foreign Office was prepared to field a junior minister if the Prime Minister had wanted to press ahead today.

Mr Major, who has been fully occupied this week with the beef crisis, is understood to have agreed to defer a decision. He initially wanted to announce a referendum commitment at the Conservative Central Council in Harrogate

on Saturday. The delay means a decision will be postponed until next week or after Easter.

Mr Clarke's insistence on a "serious discussion" in Cabinet is being taken at Westminster as another sign of his determination to press his case that a referendum on a single currency would be a mistake.

Yesterday Mr Major came under pressure from the Tory party faithful to oppose a single European currency as they demanded a clear right-wing agenda for the next election. As he prepared to travel to Turin tomorrow, they expressed their hostility to further European integration.

In the biggest such survey, 30,000 Tories across the country last autumn demanded the reform of Europe's agriculture and fisheries policies and a curb on the powers of the European Court of Justice. They called for tax and welfare cuts, a boost to home ownership, fresh support for the family and a return of British heroes such as Drake, Nelson and Churchill to school history lessons.

The Prime Minister ordered the survey last May to give grassroots members the chance to help to shape poli-

cies for the next election. *Our Nation's Future*, published yesterday, will be fed into the Downing Street Policy Unit and Cabinet committees drawing up the manifesto.

Although the party faithful said that Britain should remain a member of the European Union, they opposed further loss of British sovereignty. "There is common agreement that any move toward a 'United States of Europe' should be resisted fiercely and a clear view that no more powers should be transferred to Brussels," the report said.

The single currency was a topic of serious debate in the constituencies. The majority of participants were sceptical about the benefits. However, they were divided over holding a referendum. Some argued that one was vital to decide constitutional issues.

Others said a referendum was not needed because there were no circumstances in which a Tory government should take Britain into a single currency.

One of the suspended MPs, Graham Riddick, yesterday claimed the new ruling vindicated him. He and his supporters on the Conservative benches said they would be appealing to the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee to reopen its inquiry into the conduct of the Colne Valley MP. Mr Riddick added that the commission had apologised for failing to take evidence from him before reaching its original verdict.

MP hails press body's verdict

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

A PRESS watchdog yesterday rebuked *The Sunday Times* for its methods in the "cash for questions" affair last year that led to two Tory MPs being suspended from the Commons for two weeks.

The Press Complaints Commission reversed its previous finding that the newspaper had been entitled to use subterfuge to test MPs' reactions to the offer of £1,000 for a Commons question. In 1994 a reporter posed as a businessman to approach 20 MPs. The article that followed led to the Nolan clampdown on MPs' outside earnings.

The commission said that *The Sunday Times* did not first gather enough hard information that an issue of serious public interest was at stake, the ground on which newspapers' Code of Practice allows the use of subterfuge.

One of the suspended MPs, Graham Riddick, yesterday claimed the new ruling vindicated him. He and his supporters on the Conservative benches said they would be appealing to the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee to reopen its inquiry into the conduct of the Colne Valley MP. Mr Riddick added that the commission had apologised for failing to take evidence from him before reaching its original verdict.

But John Witherow, editor of *The Sunday Times*, rejected Mr Riddick's interpretation of the commission's new findings set out in a letter to Lord Wakeham, its chairman, to Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons. Mr Witherow said the statement was a fudge making



good name." He said the commission had ruled that *The Sunday Times* should have told its readers that its journalist, when posing as a businessman, discussed a perfectly legitimate paid consultancy with me during two substantive conversations. This proves that I did not accept cash for asking questions."

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Labour candidate ordered to quit

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR parliamentary candidate who admits having taken part in terrorist activity in South Africa has been ordered to step down by the party's ruling body.

The National Executive Committee (NEC) has told John Lloyd, who was chosen by Labour to fight Exeter at the general election, that it will rescind his endorsement as candidate if he refuses to go.

In the early 1960s Mr Lloyd, now 54, was a member of the African Resistance Movement, which bombed targets such as electricity pylons and

radio masts. He has also been accused of betraying John Harris, a fellow conspirator who was executed for planting a bomb at Johannesburg railway station that killed one person in 1964.

An NEC panel, which had been set up to look at his candidature in detail, agreed that Mr Lloyd had misled both the NEC and Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary.

He concluded that: "Mr Lloyd's lack of openness had undermined his position as a candidate."

Mr Lloyd said he was disappointed at the decision. He has no right of appeal. The local party executive will meet next Tuesday to discuss the selection of a new candidate.

Relatives of Mr Harris had written to the NEC complaining about Labour's selection of Mr Lloyd as its candidate. Mr Lloyd claims that he has been the victim of a "personal vendetta" by Mr Harris's son, David Wolfe, who is a barrister in the same chambers as Tony Blair's wife, Cherie.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY MARCH 28 1996

MAD COW DISEASE 9

Brussels confirms ban but offers conditional aid

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

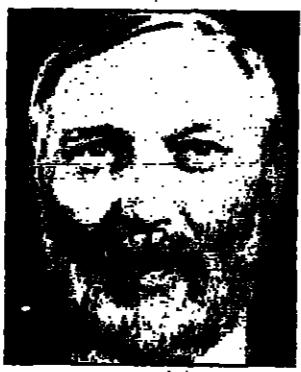
THE European Union confirmed its worldwide ban on the export of British beef and its by-products yesterday but offered financial help for British farmers provided that the Government came up with further measures to eradicate "mad cow" disease.

Britain's two EU Commissioners joined the 18 other members of the Brussels executive in ratifying the decision of EU national officials to declare a global embargo on any beef leaving Britain for human consumption, whether as meat or in products such as confectionery, medicine or lipstick. Milk and other dairy products were not affected. No member state has ever been forced by fellow EU members to take such action against its own wishes.

Franz Fischler, the EU farm commissioner, said the confirmed ban was vital to restore confidence. It was futile to talk about scientific fact or evidence, he said. However, Herr Fischler added: "These measures are not set in stone forever. They will apply until the necessary steps are taken [by Britain]." The Veterinary Committee which voted the measures on Monday would be convened again in six weeks.

The comments, made in a speech to the European Parliament, reflected the anger in the Commission and in other member states towards what is seen as the Government's mishandling of the emergency. Herr Fischler complained that the Commission, which is responsible for managing agriculture in the EU, had been given only half an hour's warning ahead of the announcement last week in the House of Commons. Last weekend he wrote a strong letter of complaint to Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister.

The battle of wills pitting Britain against the Commission and the EU's national



EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER

farm authorities has cast a shadow over tomorrow's one-day summit of EU leaders in Turin to launch the inter-governmental conference revising the Maastricht treaty.

Under the ban, Britain must report every fortnight on progress in tackling BSE, and a committee would be set up under Professor Charles Weissmann, a prominent Swiss specialist in BSE, to monitor the situation. The Commission urged Britain to take further steps: officials said this meant that the Government was expected to order the slaughter of cattle as quickly as possible.

In return, the EU would

Farmer's fury

A French farmer whose herd of 110 cattle is to be slaughtered after one of his cows was found to have BSE grabbed a British reporter by the hair yesterday when asked how he felt. "You English bastard, you give my cows BSE then you want to know how I feel," he belched. Georges Hourmant, who farms at Plouarach, Brittany, claims that his cows were infected by feed imported from Britain.

The battle of wills pitting Britain against the Commission and the EU's national

take action to lighten the financial burden on British producers. The Commission would "consider any means of assisting the UK in either a technical and/or financial way on the basis of a UK proposal," it said. Farmers would also benefit from the EU's market support mechanisms. This was the first confirmation that British beef slaughtered to eradicate BSE would qualify for the subsidies paid through the common agricultural policy to maintain beef prices.

Commission officials said special measures would be necessary to transfer funds for compensating Britain from the Union's coffers. Only about £55 million is allocated for disease eradication and this has been exhausted.

Sir Leon Brittan, one of the British Commissioners, won the agreement from the Commission to make available EU funds for compensation in return for approving the ban along with his colleagues, officials said. Sir Leon drafted the text committing the commission to recommending the use of union resources once a package of measures had been agreed with the British Government.

Herr Fischler said: "It is not our objective to isolate the United Kingdom for as long as possible. These are emergency measures that will last as long as necessary."

Herr Fischler said the chief aim at the moment was to prevent a market collapse in other member states. Controls would be strictly enforced, although this would not go as far as confiscating lipsticks from travellers crossing the Channel. Commission officials would visit the UK to inspect the eradication programme, he contended. The ban would be maintained as long as a threat remained.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Letters, page 21



Dorothy Churchill and her son Stephen, who died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

Victim's family demand an apology from Dorrell

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE family of Stephen Churchill, who died last year from a brain condition since linked to "mad cow" disease, have written to the Health Secretary to express their shock at remarks he made in a radio programme.

Dorothy and David Churchill, Stephen's parents, and his sister, Helen, 21, told Stephen Dorrell: "It is with an overpowering sense of disgust that we are forced to write to you regarding your offensive remarks made publicly. That you should have the effrontery to query that the British public are going mad, rather than the cows, must rate as your most crass statement ever. We demand a public

apology for the offence caused and reiterate our call for a public and independent inquiry into these matters."

Mr Dorrell made the remarks during an appearance on *Call Nick Ross* on BBC Radio 4 on Tuesday, in response to a barrage of criticism from callers, many of them mothers of young children.

He said: "I agree with *The Sun* this morning, which says it isn't the cows that are mad, it's the people. What the people have to do, what all of us have to do, is step back from the hysteria and believe the facts."

Mrs Churchill, from Devizes, Wiltshire, said yesterday: "Words failed me

when I heard that. We were all deeply shocked by it, as were all of our friends and neighbours."

A statement issued last night by the Department of Health said: "Mr Dorrell has great sympathy for Stephen Churchill's parents. He was replying to a query about the *Sun* editorial and making the point that he agreed with *The Sun* that public hysteria about the possible link between BSE and CJD was out of all proportion to the risk and the scientific evidence."

Stephen Churchill died on May 21 last year, a month after his nineteenth birthday. Scientists have since identified him as one of ten victims of a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease likely to have been caused by eating meat infected with BSE.

Ministers face questions from all sides over BSE policy

BY ARTHUR LEATHES
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS and their advisers faced four hours of questioning from MPs yesterday on the background and implications of the BSE scare.

The Commons Agriculture and Health Select Committees called Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, to give details of government policy. Also among the witnesses were Keith Meldrum, the Chief Veterinary Officer, and Professor John Pattison, chairman of Seac, the BSE advisory committee.

Professor Pattison: "I believe that is now the case."

David Congdon, Tory member of the health committee: "Can anyone make some sort of assessment as to what extremely low 'risk' is? Is it one in a million, one in ten million?" Professor Pattison: "Everyone in the land would be grateful if we could put a figure of one in 100 million on it. If you have a small risk it can actually multiply up to a large number of cases... if everyone in the country ate an average amount of beef you might not get one case."

John Marshall, Tory member of the health committee: "Is there not a danger of a British industry being sold down the river by individuals who pretend there is a problem in Britain and no problem anywhere else in the world?" Keith Meldrum: "The extent to which there is under-reporting is hard to determine. It is fair to say that the problem in the UK is significantly greater than in other countries."

Edward Leigh, Tory MP and a member of the agriculture committee: "We are faced with a crisis of confidence in a great British industry. What

Government is considering? What is the cost and what is the purpose of such policies? We have had various proposals, not least what seems to be a very sensible one of dairy cows coming to the end of their lives being bought by the Government."

Mr Hogg: "There is no recommendation from Seac for any kind of policy which involves slaughter. Seac haven't recommended that we take out of the human food chain the older cow."

"The core of National Farmers' Union proposals is that 30-month-old cows should not enter the food chain. Seac has

considered the question of the older cow and recommended that . . . the older cow can be sold into the food chain but in a deboned state. That is where

the scientific evidence and recommendations rests."

Sir Jerry Wiggin, Tory chairman of the agriculture committee, asked Professor Pattison: "Would you not agree that the likelihood of BSE-infected food appearing on the dinner plate is as near zero as is humanly possible?"

Professor Pattison: "I believe that is now the case."

David Congdon, Tory member of the health committee: "Can anyone make some sort of assessment as to what extremely low 'risk' is? Is it one in a million, one in ten million?" Professor Pattison: "Everyone in the land would be grateful if we could put a figure of one in 100 million on it. If you have a small risk it can actually multiply up to a large number of cases... if everyone in the country ate an average amount of beef you might not get one case."

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'Pre-eminence of A levels has led to expansion beyond the purpose for which they were created'

Dearing calls for tougher exams to stretch high flyers

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

STANDARDS

HIGH-FLYING students will be encouraged to take revitalised S levels, or even parts of university courses, under Sir Ron Dearing's plans to stretch sixth-formers.

Sir Ron's *Review of Qualifications for 16 to 19-year-olds* calls for A levels to be made more difficult in a range of subjects, including English and business studies. Independent research had shown standards were uneven and "levelling up" should take place over a five-year period.

Examination boards will be required to monitor standards over time. Restrictions will be placed on the development of modular A levels, which have shown significantly higher pass rates than traditional examination-based courses.

Those who still find A level pitched below their natural ability will be offered Special Papers (S levels) or units from degree courses. S levels have been in decline for many years because they do not count towards university entrance.

Sir Ron proposes that revamped Special Papers should be based on A-level syllabuses, testing students to a higher standard. An alternative would be to set high flyers extended assignments, requiring research or in-depth exploration of a topic.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Sec-

courses, who are able to improve their grades by retaking examinations, should be limited in the number of times they can retake units. Final examinations should account for a minimum of 30 per cent of the marks.

In the future, traditional and modular A levels could be unified, with "final" exams covering the whole of a two-year course.

Sir Ron acknowledged that particular concerns have been raised about the drop in mathematics and science entries at A level. Academics have complained that A-level mathematics now leaves out so many "difficult" topics that they have to give many new undergraduates remedial lessons.

The report recommends new GCSE additional mathematics courses to narrow the gap to A level. Government regulatory bodies should consult examining boards about enlarging the mandatory core of both science and mathematics A levels, so that more topics would be covered by every student.

Education, page 17
Leading article, page 21



A-level students at work yesterday at Tiffin girls' school in Kingston upon Thames

Vocational study could ease plight of disaffected

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of teenagers failing to achieve the lowest level of academic success at school should try vocational study in a college or the workplace, yesterday's report recommended.

Sir Ron Dearing, who left school at 16 with few qualifications, has been particularly struck by the plight of the thousands who leave school unqualified and disaffected every year. He said school should remain the centre of education up to the age of 16 but from 14 the disenchanted and other low achievers should have regular sessions in different environments to see if they can be motivated.

Sir Ron said it was a matter of national concern that more than 40,000 16-year-olds, 8 per cent of the year group, leave school every year without the lowest academic qualification to their name, a grade G at GCSE. In 1994, nearly 80,000 in English and 90,000 in mathematics did not get a grade G, the level expected of the average 11-year-old.

His proposed new structure of National Levels embracing all qualifications represents the three existing tiers but adds a foothold for those not recording any success. Sir Ron

rejected extending the GCSE ladder below grade G (to H, I, etc) and is instead calling on schools and colleges to develop a range of Entry-level qualifications, aimed lower than anything on offer at present.

Sir Ron said: "Some 20 per cent of our young people do not achieve a qualification in both the core subjects of English and mathematics, and that clouds their whole future. To encourage, motivate and recognise the achievement of such young people must be a major objective."

The priority for Entry level would be to recognise communication, numeracy and information technology. Scales used to assess 11-year-olds could form the basis of Entry level criteria.

Sir Ron added that teenagers who play truant or have lost interest in school may respond to the "more adult environment" of a further education college. He wants schools to link with colleges to create education programmes for low achievers.

The Association for Colleges welcomed the report and said its members would work with schools, provided disenchanted teenagers were not "dumped" on them.

PR

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Opportunities for high achievers to take units of university courses while still at school or college.
- A national framework for all qualifications of four levels: entry, foundation, intermediate and advanced.
- Renaming the advanced GNVQ the "applied A level".
- Making the applied A level the same size as a single A level (currently advanced GNVQs take the curriculum time of two A levels).
- Higher standards required in some A levels, including English and art.
- An Advanced Subsidiary (AS) examination to replace the present AS level, based on the first half of an A-level syllabus, to encourage four or five choices at 16 rather than three full A levels.
- A new range of qualifications for low-achievers at entry level, below a GCSE grade G.
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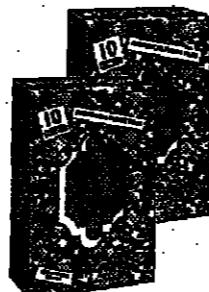
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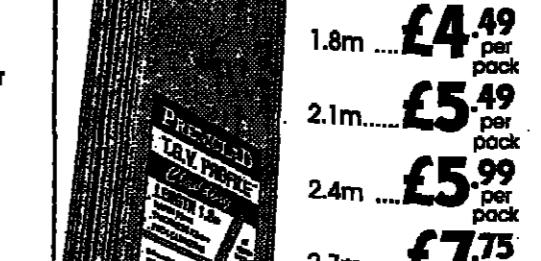
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ACHIEVERS

Farm crisis drives Britain towards European fold

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS



TURIN SUMMIT

A WEEK of Europe-wide convulsions over "mad cow disease" has cast a harsh new light on tomorrow's European Union summit in Turin, an event intended to set a serene tone for the Maastricht review conference.

The BSE crisis has pushed John Major to the centre of the stage, where he will receive the sympathies of his continental colleagues, with a little lecturing on the blessings of "solidarity".

President Chirac set the tone yesterday with a call to the French Cabinet to support Britain in its hour of need and to give generously when compensating British farmers. Philippe Vasseur, the Farming Minister, spelt out what France expects for helping Mr

However, the beef crisis has offered a parable in what is

Italians seek single voice for the EU

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THERE were increasing fears among Italian officials yesterday that tomorrow's Turin summit would be hijacked by the row between Britain and its European partners over "mad cow" disease.

Officials said Italy had hoped for a trouble-free summit to launch the inter-governmental conference on Maastricht. Susanna Agnelli, the Foreign Minister, believed EU leaders were close to an agreement on giving Europe "a single identifiable face and voice" by appointing a senior figure to represent Europe to the world.

Britain wants the powers of any representative to be limited, with foreign policy kept largely in the hands of national governments. Nor is it clear how a common defence policy could work. But officials said Signora Agnelli had forged a "warm relationship" with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and that had helped to create a "positive mood" for Turin.

Signora Agnelli said yesterday she hoped that Turin

would launch the debate on three themes: common foreign policy, reform of institutions and the rights of citizens.

The summit had to give a "clear message" by affirming the "federal vocation" of the EU in the run-up to the summit in June.

The controversial singularity issue has been kept off the Turin agenda and the Italian defused another potential row by formulating a compromise over the role of MEPs in the IGC. Signora Agnelli sounded a cautious note on the extension of majority voting, saying it had to be "carefully weighed".

Signora Agnelli, 74, has won praise from European diplomats for her tireless travelling since Italy took over the EU presidency in January.

She was stung by the accusation of Richard Holbrooke, the senior US envoy, that Europe had "been asleep" during the Bosnia crisis, and chaired a Balkan summit in Rome last month to put the Maastricht review.

right and wrong in the European enterprise as it embarks on reform for the next century. According to some senior diplomats and officials in Brussels, it has also provided a chance to bring Britain closer to its neighbours. A demonstration of EU generosity towards British farmers could dim the EU's demon status in the eyes of many Britons.

The general view is that the British Government has mishandled the emergency, requiring other members, through the Commission, to step in with their own quarantine and calls for slaughter.

That view was summed up by Belgium's *Le Soir* yesterday. The country which endlessly lectured its partners on the horrors of the common agricultural policy now expected to be bailed out from Brussels, the paper said.

In Germany, a tone of weary resignation has flooded the editorial columns. Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, said the BSE crisis hardly helped at a time when Britain was already planning to dig in its heels at the inter-governmental conference (IGC).

However, while the rest of Europe has been congratulating itself, the beef crisis has once again exposed all the flaws in the 15-member union that was defined by the Maastricht treaty.

Instead of pulling together, as dictated by the "solidarity" preached in all the continental Euro-rhetoric, the moment the word was out on CJD, the national drawbridges were slammed shut to British beef.

As *Le Figaro* said yesterday: "All those frontiers that were supposed to disappear suddenly sprang back and everyone tried to extract a bit of profit for himself out of the crisis."

As the EU circus was beginning to fly into Turin for the first act of the year-long negotiations, the Commission's posters unashamedly daunted news. Only 15 per cent of EU citizens were aware that the Union was about to launch its Maastricht review.

During her tour of the city's

Letters, page 21



The Duke inspects Krakow's only functioning synagogue with Menahem Joskovitz, the Chief Rabbi of Poland

Ex-Communists welcome the Queen

FROM ALAN HAMILTON
IN PRAGUE

CENTRAL Europe turned out in its thousands yesterday to see the Queen on her historic progress through the old Communist states, first in the late winter snow of Krakow and later in the warm spring sunshine of Prague.

However, while the rest of Europe has been congratulating itself, the beef crisis has once again exposed all the flaws in the 15-member union that was defined by the Maastricht treaty.

On the last day of her state visit to Poland, the first by a reigning British monarch, a cold, dreary, foul weather and packed the main square of Poland's ancient and largely unspoilt capital to see the Queen make a walkabout among glorious baroque architecture that has survived despite appalling pollution.

Among the crowd was a small delegation from the Polish Monarchist League.

Krakow has far more traditions of monarchy than does the modern capital of Warsaw. Not only was it the seat of Polish kings until the abolition of the throne in 1795, it subsequently fell under the relatively benign rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire while much of the rest of the country was governed by Germans or Russians.

During her tour of the city's



Queen admires a doll in regional costume

historic buildings, the Queen visited the vast, dark interior of St Mary's Church and heard the truncated bugle call that is sounded every hour from its soaring spire, in memory of the medieval cannoneer who sounded the alarm at the approach of the invading Mongols and was shot through the neck by a Tatar arrow in mid blow.

In the Wawel cathedral on a hill above the city, the Queen laid a wreath on the tomb of General Sikorski, the wartime Polish military leader.

The Duke of Edinburgh

Historically, the Czech Republic has less reason than Poland to offer hospitality to a British monarch.

Britain turned its back on Hitler's takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1938 and 1939, yet went to war for Poland only months later.

But the European game is different now: both countries are prepared to court any Western leader likely to further their membership of the European Union and Nato.

President Havel told journalists in the castle that Czech-British friendship had existed for 1,000 years and that the Queen's visit was a symbol of continuing good relationships.

Pressed on specifics, he said that the Czech Republic was anxious to join Western institutions. "If there is the will, our membership of Nato might precede EU membership. That might be a desirable thing."

The ceremonies of welcome over, the President took the Queen for a walk in the late afternoon sun across the Charles Bridge, one of Prague's great architectural monuments, where another crowd of thousands offered warm applause to their rare royal visitor.

WORLD SUMMARY

Robber of royal gems faces jail

New York: A baggage handler at New York airport has pleaded guilty to stealing diamond jewellery from the Duchess of York's luggage.

Gilbert Terreno, 20, of Brooklyn, faces up to 18 months in prison (Quentin Letts writes).

The disappearance of the jewels on December 4, which included a necklace given to the Duchess by the Queen as a wedding present in 1986, created international headlines.

Terreno, who had no idea of the owner of the gems, had taken some of the jewels to his family home in Brooklyn's Ozone Park, while others were found in his locker at work.

Woman named 3-star general

New York: America's armed forces have nominated their first female three-star general (Quentin Letts writes). Carol Mutter, 50, a major-general in the Marines, has been recommended for promotion to lieutenant-general. The Senate is not expected to object.

General Mutter will be the only woman among 108 three-star generals. One of the first to congratulate her was her husband, James, a retired Marines colonel.

Okinawa leader shuns US bases

Tokyo: The Governor of Okinawa said he would refuse to obey a court order to sign documents renewing leases for US military bases on the island and said he would appeal. Governor Masahide Ota's refusal will force Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, to sign the leases instead. (Reuters)

Afghans hurt in munitions blast

Kabul: Twenty-five Afghan United Nations mine-clearing experts were injured when a blast ripped through a Taliban munitions dump in the militia's southern stronghold of Kandahar, sources said. The cause of the explosion is unknown. (AP)

Algerian militants seize 7 Trappists

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

SEVEN French Trappist monks were kidnapped from their Algerian monastery yesterday by suspected Islamic terrorists, prompting the French Government to repeat calls for all French people resident in Algeria to return home immediately.

The monks, aged between 50 and 80, were abducted from the Trappist Tibehirine monastery in the town of Medea, 50 miles south of Algiers. No ransom demand has been received, but the Government identified the kidnappers as members of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most militant of the Islamic groups fighting to topple the military-backed Algerian Government.

Hervé de Charene, the French Foreign Minister, immediately said that all 8,370 French citizens still living in Algeria, as well as tens of thousands of others holding dual French-Algerian nationality, should return to France. "I can only repeat, in the gravest and most solemn way, to all French people still in Algeria... you must return."

Since September 1993, 32 French citizens have been murdered by militants in Algeria, including seven belonging to religious orders. In 1994, the GIA vowed to eradicate all "Jews, Christians and polytheists" in Algeria.

A French government spokesman said the abduction was "an odious act against a religious community".

Why hardship drives Russians to eat people

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

WHEN police in the Crimean city of Sebastopol were called to investigate a murder this week, nothing had prepared them for the grisly scene that unfolded during a routine search of a block of flats.

Entering the home of a former convict, the officers found the mutilated remains of human bodies being prepared for eating. The flat's owner, her mother and her boyfriend, had been stabbed to death by the 33-year-old suspect and their bodies neatly butchered. In the kitchen investigators found the internal organs of two victims in saucers, and nearby a plate of freshly-roasted piece of human flesh.

Although the gruesome details of the killings have stunned Sebastopol, more shocking perhaps is the growing evidence suggesting that cannibalism is not an isolated problem, but is rife in the former Soviet Union.

In the past 12 months ten people, from Siberia to St Petersburg, have been charged with killing and eating their victims. The authorities are at a loss to explain the phenomenon. Last month there were two cases of cannibalism. One man in the Siberian coal-mining town of Kemerovo was arrested after he admitted killing and cutting up a friend, and using his flesh as the filling for pelmeni, a Russian version of ravioli.

Twice last year convicts in overcrowded prisons killed and ate their cellmates because they claimed they were hungry and wanted to



A cannibal in the Volga during the 1921 famine

relieve overcrowding. Criminal experts said that most cases of cannibalism were part of the general rise of serial killings, which have increased because police resources are so stretched by rising crime and because of Russia's mounting economic and social problems.

Andrei Tkachenko, the director of the Serbsky Psychiatric Centre in Moscow, where serial killers are sent for observation, said that in the 1980s the centre received about three or five patients a year. Now on average at least ten serial killers are sent.

If you were to get a complete figure you would find that there are considerably more instances of serial murders in Russia now than anywhere else in the world," he told the *Moscow Times*.

Cannibalism, in particular,

could just be the grim legacy of Russia's tortured history this century, when time and again the population has resorted to eating human flesh to survive.

The first recorded cases were during the famine of 1921, when the plight of the people in the Volga region was so great that a trade in human body parts flourished briefly.

Mass outbreaks of cannibalism emerged again during the period of Stalin's collectivisation in the 1930s, when millions died of starvation in Ukraine and many resorted to ambushing and eating strangers and children.

"These were people who cut up and ate corpses, who killed their own children and ate them," wrote Vassili Grossman, a Soviet writer. "I saw one. She had been brought to the district centre under convoy. Her face was human but her eyes were those of a wolf."

Andrei Chikatilo, the notorious serial killer known as the "Rostov Ripper", provided a clue to his morbid obsession before he was executed in 1994 for murdering more than 50 people during his reign of terror in southern Russia. Under interrogation Chikatilo, who not only raped and butchered his victims but ate parts of their bodies, said he had been haunted by the memory of his brother who was eaten by starving peasants in Ukraine.

Aleksandr Bukhanovsky, a criminal psychiatrist, said that the murderer's ghastly childhood memories triggered a revulsion and the urge to perform similar acts.

UN plea for Burundi

Geneva: A United Nations investigator accused the international community yesterday of playing "a game of hide and seek" with Burundi, while the country is going through a civil war that has left thousands dead (Peter Capella writes).

Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, the UN special investigator on human rights in Burundi, said that international at-

tempts to deal with the confrontation between rival ethnic groups in the past 11 months had been muddled and inadequate. "They play to find extremists. But what are they doing to find them? Nothing," the investigator said.

He added that European countries in particular had shown much concern, but little action had been taken.

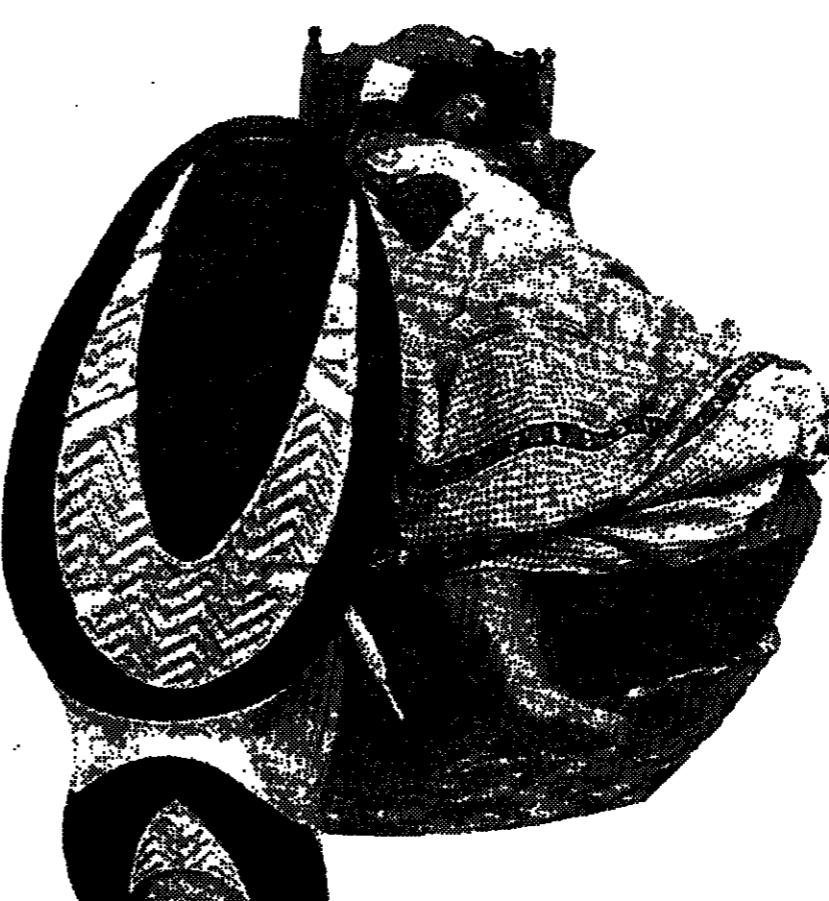
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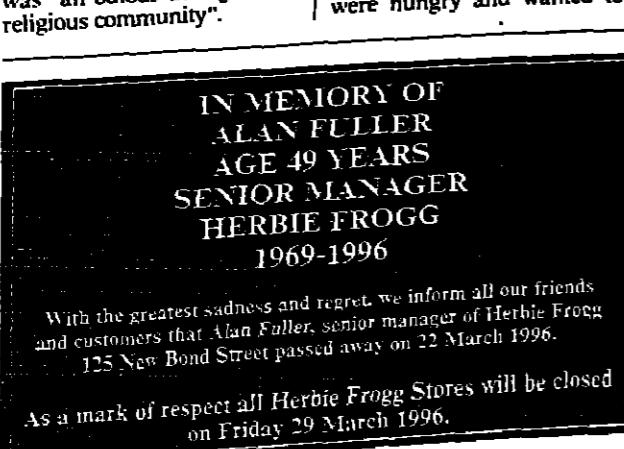
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With the greatest sadness and regret, we inform all our friends and customers that Alan Fuller, senior manager of Herbie Frogg and custodians of 125 New Bond Street, passed away on 22 March 1996.

As a mark of respect all Herbie Frogg Stores will be closed on Friday 29 March 1996.

Patten denounces Peking's plan for parallel rule

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday rejected Chinese proposals to set up a second legislature here, to extract a loyalty pledge from the Civil Service and to sideline the Governor, all before the 1997 handover of the colony.

China's newest blow to the colony, after Peking's humiliation in the Taiwan elections, was the suggestion that, once China has picked the members of Provisional Legislative Council, which will sit concurrently with the present wholly elected one, and designated a chief executive to replace Mr Patten on July 1, 1997, "Mr Patten will inevitably become a loner". The idea

was mooted by an "official", reliably reported to be Lu Ping, head of the State Council's China and Macau Affairs Office.

The official also said that, after the chief executive has appointed his senior officials from among serving senior civil servants here, "it will be impossible for those officials to work under Mr Patten in the morning and under the instruction of the chief executive in the afternoon. I have to ask Mr Patten how the British-Hong Kong Government will operate. I do not know how Mr Patten can pass his days in the final stage."

This appears to be a violation of the 1984 British-Chi-

nese treaty, which states that the British Government will exercise full authority in the colony until its flag is lowered.

The official also affirmed what his deputy had said, that senior civil servants would have to be loyal to the provisional legislature. This will force them to choose between Peking's orders and the policy of the Hong Kong Government, which denies the legitimacy of the Provisional Legislative Council, which will come into being at least six months before the handover. It will number among its hand-picked members 14 of those elected last year to the present council, which China says it will abolish on July 1, 1997. There will then be two councils and two de facto Governors in place.

Mr Patten said in response to the Chinese threats: "Government is not something you can turn on and off like an electric kettle. Government goes on. We have a politically neutral Civil Service." It would serve its present master loyally, Mr Patten said, and subsequently the post-1997 government. "Anyone who does not understand that, does not understand the nature of a free society under the rule of law."

It has already been suggested here that John Major should implement his guarantee, given during his recent trip to Hong Kong, that if the colony's liberty appears to be threatened by its future sovereign Britain would seek international legal redress.

■ Singapore: Hong Kong will remain the main port for southern China despite the development of ports in that region and even if Peking and Taipei establish direct trade links, Tony Clark, secretary of the Hong Kong Port Development Board, said.

Hong Kong now acts as the world port for China, particularly for Guangdong. "The question is, will Hong Kong remain the main port for southern China as other ports in the area are developed. Our assessment is that it will," he told a ports conference. (AFP)

Refugees has steadily lost touch with the camps and the Government has been left with the task of forcing their repatriation to an unco-operative Vietnam.

The boatpeople now number 20,000 after the often reluctant repatriation of more than 46,000 others. Paul Baker, a British lawyer who has long defended them, said the decision would have profound significance for many others in the camps, some of whom have been detained for more than 15 years.

The Privy Council noted that at least 400 boatpeople have been refused re-entry to Vietnam, often on the grounds that they are not genuine Vietnamese, and are being held without trial.

Mr Belfoff said there was "no realistic prospect of release" for many camp inmates, and that they must be set free unless the Government can show why their detention should continue.

Peking has emphasised repeatedly that it wants the Vietnamese repatriated or sent to other countries before China resumes control.



Yigal Amir, flanked by policemen, being escorted into court yesterday for sentencing

Colony criticised by Privy Council

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

THE Privy Council yesterday branded the Hong Kong Government's treatment of four Vietnamese boatpeople "an affront" to civilised standards, ordering the immediate release of the one left in custody.

The reaction to the statement by Michael Belfoff, QC, who held that "the right to liberty is second only to the right to life itself", will revive what has been Hong Kong's most bitter domestic political issue, and will weaken the Government's claim that it is a beacon of legality and human rights.

The ruling concerns four Vietnamese who have been denied refugee status, one of whom has been detained for six years. The four fled here with papers from the Taiwan Government, claiming that Hanoi denied them citizenship and seeking recognition as political refugees.

Many Hong Kong people may find themselves seeking refugee status in less than two years. However, most resent the fact that the colony has been forced to support the boatpeople. The United Nations High Commissioner for

China 'staging fresh wargames'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TAIPEI

CHINESE troops are staging a new round of mock battles against Taiwan, despite apparent conciliatory tones between Taipei and Peking, a leading Taiwanese newspaper said yesterday.

The exercises are smaller than the ones that ended on Monday, the *United Daily News* reported in a dispatch from New York.

The manoeuvres, reportedly being held inland, were said to be less menacing than the previous exercises, which disrupted shipping in the Taiwan Strait and were seen as capable of being turned quickly

into actual attacks. The reported sources close to the Chinese military. Officials in Taiwan and China would not comment.

Yin Tsung-wen, the director of Taiwan's National Security Bureau, said yesterday that China was expected to conduct exercises on mountains and urban terrain that resembled Taiwan.

The exercises, code-named "Success 96", were reported in several cities and mountains in Fujian and Guangdong provinces. They involved troops from the 27th and 63rd legions, based in the

United States late this year, it added.

■ Peking: Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the United Nations Secretary General, who met Chinese leaders here during a four-day visit to China, said that Taiwan could never be a UN member "unless there is a change of mind in China." (James Pringle writes)

Meanwhile, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said America would face the "resolute opposition" of China and its people if Taiwan's newly elected President, Lee Teng-hui, was allowed to accept an invitation to visit the US.

Briton rejected freedom

BY LEYLA LINTON AND JONATHAN MILLER IN BANGKOK

CHRISTOPHER HOWES, the British charity worker taken hostage in northwestern Cambodia, rejected an offer of freedom because he did not want to abandon his Cambodian colleagues.

The kidnappers, believed to be Khmer Rouge deserters, told him to go to negotiate a ransom, but Mr Howes, 36, a Falklands ex-serviceman, refused. Instead, he persuaded the bandits to release nine captives. Others escaped and the rest, except Mr Howes's interpreter, were set free later.

Mr Howes, 68, from Bristol, said he was not surprised by his son's bravery. "He is just an ordinary Englishman doing his job," he said.

Mr Howes was seized with up to 28 volunteers on Tuesday day as he supervised mine-clearing. Yesterday, two Cambodian policemen were killed by landmines as they helped to search for him.

Gunman holds seven hostage

Leienkau, Germany: A gunman seized seven hostages, four of them children, in a western German village yesterday and threatened to kill them if his demands were not met, the police said.

They said the 45-year-old gunman had originally held 12 members of his own extended family captive, but it was not

immediately clear how the other five family members apparently had managed to get away.

The unnamed man from Mannheim was holding his hostages in a relation's house in Leienkau, a village in rolling hills near Koblenz, on the Rhine. He was demanding 500,000 marks (£220,000) and

the opportunity to make good his escape.

The police opened negotiations by telephone, but said an early end to the siege was not in sight. They lifted a news blackout that had been imposed after the gunman said he would kill himself and his hostages if the media reported the incident. (Reuter)

Jackson's star dims in Oscars fiasco

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AS HOLLYWOOD returns groggily to work, it has become clear that the only real loser on Oscar night was the Rev Jesse Jackson.

Mr Jackson's protest over the under-representation of blacks in films, which began with the revelation that only one Oscar nominee was African-American, has turned into a political damp squib and a personal humiliation.

After Whoopi Goldberg, the black actress, mocked him in front of a billion television viewers on Monday, Mr Jackson was dismissed yesterday by Patricia Turner, a professor of African-American Studies at the University of California, as "an unduly opportunistic man grasping for straws".

Mr Jackson urged African-American supporters to join him on Oscar night with banners and slogans outside ABC television's Los Angeles affiliate, but barely two dozen turned up. He urged the eight black celebrities appearing as presenters to wear rainbow-coloured ribbons in recognition of his Rainbow Coalition, but only the producer, Quincy Jones, did so.

Claiming in the aftermath of Hollywood's night of stars to be "at the centre of debate", Mr Jackson may have been accurate. But that debate concerns his judgment. Publicists for Ms Goldberg and Mr Jones told the *Los Angeles Times* that both considered the Oscars the wrong time and place for a protest.



Zia stopped short of tendering resignation

Zia bows to pressure for election

Dhaka: Begum Khalida Zia, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, gave in to months of pressure yesterday and asked President Biswas to set up a caretaker government to oversee fresh elections, state television said.

Earlier, senior officials told the President that they could not work from today unless the country's political crisis was resolved.

The Prime Minister reiterated her pledge to hold an election in May. It was reported. However, her move stopped short of meeting opposition demands that she resign by yesterday.

Ayubur Rahman, Bangladesh's most senior civil servant, signed a statement saying: "The administration, economy and law and order have all collapsed. As there is no obstacle to a caretaker government, we have suggested to the President that it be formed immediately."

Opposition parties have staged a series of strikes to try to force Begum Zia to resign and call new elections under a neutral body. (Reuter)

Killer of Rabin harangues court after life sentence

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

YIGAL AMIR, 25, was sentenced yesterday for the pre-meditated murder of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, whom he assassinated last November in a religiously inspired attempt to derail the peace process with the Palestinians. Amir showed no remorse when the life sentence was read out.

Conspiracy theories that surround the controversial killing are likely to be heightened today when a 368-page report by the State Commission of Inquiry on the lamentable performance of Israel's security services is published. One-third of the report is classified as secret.

Judicial experts said Amir was likely to spend the rest of his life in a special cell complex for his own safety. A number of Israeli prisoners have already issued a warning that an attempt would be made to kill Amir.

Moshe Negre, a legal expert, told Israel radio that Amir was an unlikely candidate for a normal presidential pardon and that the additional six-year consecutive sentence he received for wounding one of Rabin's bodyguards was therefore "meaningless".

Given the huge public interest, the Tel Aviv court allowed its verdict to be broadcast live. Oded Mudrik, one of the three judges who delivered the expected verdict, said: "Behind bars and within the prison

walls, the 'mark of Cain' will be imprinted on the forehead of the accused."

Amir, an extreme right-wing former law student, showed little emotion when sentence was passed. The judges were dismissive of defence claims that he had intended only to wound Rabin, 73, rather than kill him.

Amir, flanked by police, stood confidently with hand on hip and addressed the court for about four minutes before being stopped by Edmund Levy, the chief judge, who had shown little patience with him during the trial because of his attempts to use the stand as a platform for his militant views.

In his speech, Amir also said: "Everything I did, I did for the people of Israel, for the Torah [Bible] of Israel, for the land of Israel. Whoever tries to break this link between these things will not succeed."

When Judge Levy cut him off, Mr Amir said: "May God help you." Later, as he was marched out of the packed court, he shouted: "The state of Israel is a monstrosity."

Passing sentence, Judge Levy said Amir "is unworthy of anything except pity, in that he has lost all semblance of humanity...". He decided that putting the late Prime Minister to death was the last way to stop the political process which he did not like, and he followed this path to its end."

Here's one statement that doesn't tell the whole story.

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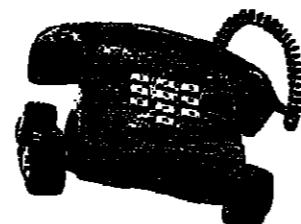
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TOKEN 4

On day four of our guide to the national curriculum tests, **Rebecca Girling** and **Mal Rivers** explain maths testing

Count on a calculated success



Unprecedented attention has focused on children's mathematical ability — and by implication the effectiveness of teaching methods — in recent months. As 11-year-olds approach the national tests, parents as well as teachers will be more keen than ever to help their children prepare.

Most pupils will be sitting test papers which are designed to assess an ability span from national curriculum Level 3 to Level 5. It is expected that an average 11-year-old will reach Level 4 in these tests, although fewer than half did so last year.

There are also extension papers for the extremely able, set at a standard generally beyond the scope of primary schoolchildren. Practical tasks administered in the classroom will provide an alternative for children judged to be performing below Level 3.

The tests form part of a compilation of assessments, some carried out by the teacher, which are required at the age of 11 (the end of Key Stage 2). The assessments are intended to reflect the child's performance in class over a period, and they are completed



Children at Sudborne Primary School, in Brixton, south London, which, like the authors' school, was highlighted by Ofsted for producing among the year's best results. This year pupils will have 45 minutes per paper, 10 minutes more than last year

within the space of a week starting on May 13. The two mathematics papers will be included in this intense week of testing. Test A will be on May 13 and a small minority of children will take the extension paper on May 20.

This year, the time for each paper has been increased from 35 minutes to 45 minutes, although the number of questions will be similar. Last year many children performed less

well than they were able because the time was insufficient for the task set. There will be less confusion about the allowed use of calculators because Test A this year will be a non-calculator paper and in Test B there will be clear indication where calculators must be used.

The questions will aim to assess the children's ability in numbers, shape, space and measures; and data handling.

There will be about twice as many questions on number as the other two areas. The questions will be graduated in difficulty, with the first ones on each paper aimed at pupils with Level 3 ability followed by much more difficult problems which are aimed at the above-average 11-year-old.

Parents who want to help their children to achieve to the best of their ability may like to consider the following:

- Check answers — if time allows.
- Encourage your children to talk about maths and to explain to you how to solve problems.
- Explain how to make a graph of daily rainfall for a week, interrogating the data for a mean and range. Your child could describe properties of shapes such as a parallelogram and show you how to use a mirror to identify reflective symmetry.

All of these are more important than being able to recite tables by rote if the child is then unable to use those tables in problem solving.

Ten per cent of the total marks are allocated to the children's explanation of mathematical ideas.

If you don't understand concepts such as the probability scale, rotational symmetry or pie charts, ask your child's teacher to explain them to you so that you can then discuss these with your 11-year-old.

Your child's school will probably be giving practice in timed tests in order to alleviate anxiety as far as possible and will be revising maths concepts learnt over the past four years (Key Stage 2).

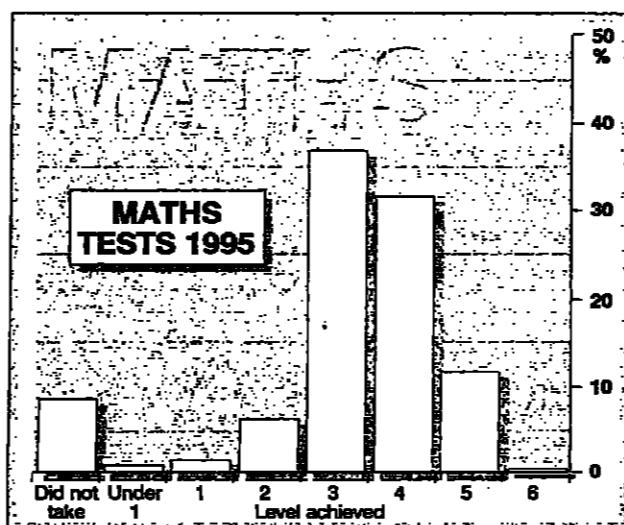
The week of the tests is far from a normal school week and children may appear stressed and tired. Try to be understanding, while not devaluing the importance of the week. At the end of the week, think of some treats that are fun and relaxing.

You will be given the results of the tests and teacher assessments (which have equal weighting) before the end of the summer term on your child's report. You should also be given opportunity to discuss your child's results with the teacher.

We have been assured that children have more chance of achieving their potential this year than last. Good luck!

• **Rebecca Girling** is a Year 6 teacher and **Mal Rivers** is headteacher at Grendon CE Primary School, Northamptonshire.

- Try not to raise your child's level of anxiety by imposing revision programmes.
- Encourage children to read the questions carefully and show working, particularly where required.
- Tell your children not to cross out their working through a problem as marks are sometimes given for knowledge of method.
- Tell them to cross out any wrong answers clearly.



next term. Pupils had most difficulty with shape, space and probability.

Questions on number and the interpretation of graphs and tables produced the highest success rate. But the external examiners found that many 11-year-olds struggled when they had to give explanations or reasons for their answers.

Many pupils appeared not to be familiar with the mathematical terms used in the questions for Levels 3-5. In particular, schools were advised to acquaint children with the language associated with probability for this year's tests.

Relatively few pupils were entered for the extension paper, which covered concepts normally tackled in secondary school. Less than half of 1 per cent passed this test, and those who did attempt the paper found particular difficulty in the ordering of fractions, and the calculation of ratios and percentage increases.

JOHN O'LEARY

Maths: a problem area

MATHEMATICS was the blackspot of last year's pilot run of the national curriculum tests for 11-year-olds. The 44 per cent reaching the expected Level 4 was lower than in either English or science.

Girls generally did better than boys, but slightly more boys reached the higher levels of the curriculum. As in other subjects, teacher assessment produced more generous results than the tests.

The tests covered number, algebra, shape and space, and handling data, as they will

be in the national curriculum tests for 11-year-olds. The 44 per cent reaching the expected Level 4 was lower than in either English or science.

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Women who trade faces

There are moments in life when a woman simply has to take on a new image, says Joe Joseph

When Sarah Ferguson's drawn, unsmiling, blanched face and kohl-rimmed eyes appeared on the front of *Hello!* this week, many people must have assumed that the world-hopping Duchess of York had volunteered to take part in some health education campaign to warn about the draining effects of multiple jetlag.

Then we found out that she had actually spent several hours with a make-up artist trying to achieve this ghostly Morticia Addams look, like those odd people who go to fancy-dress parties amusingly kitted out as accident victims.

It's certainly not a wash-and-go style, even for someone who doesn't have to rush to work first thing in the morning. Fancy photographic techniques and possibly computer enhancement may have heightened the ashen, single-chin look.

But what makes women who, until now, have been happily photographed as mumsy girls-next-door feel they suddenly have to play the vamp? The Princess of Wales did it, famously, in front of Patrick Demarchelier's flattering lens. The Duchess of Kent called on Snowdon, and later Demarchelier, when she wanted to show new faces to the world.

Emma Thompson did it for *Vanity Fair*, and Andie MacDowell made a lunge at losing her *Saturday-night-entertainer* image by posing for *Tatler* in a way that made her look sexyish, though not quite *femme fatale*.

"Quite often," says psychologist Dr Dorothy Rowe, "all of us will change something about our appearance when we feel we've moved into a new phase in our lives. It may be just a matter of getting rid of a garment or a hairstyle."

Or maybe even your senses. Dr Martin Skinner, a psychologist at Warwick University, agrees that "people do go for a completely different look when there's been some big disjunction in their lives



Famous makeovers: the Princess of Wales changed her image in front of Patrick Demarchelier's lens, while the Duchess of York (centre) prefers the Morticia look

— after a breakup or when they have got a new job."

But hasn't she aped the Princess Diana *Panorama* look, with the black-rimmed eyes?

"Fergie quite often follows the Princess," Dr Rowe says. "It works out, so does Fergie. It uses kohl, so does Fergie."

But Diana doesn't walk around like she's just finished an eight-hour shift in a flour mill. What's the white face all about? Probably from those moody adverts in glossy women's mags for lipstick and mascara. If you squint hard enough, the restructured Fergie even has something of the pallid Marianne Faithfull about her. Borrowing looks from other women is a peculiarly female hobby. You often overhear women in hairdress-

ers asking for a Helena Christensen cut, but it's rare to see a man asking for a "Jeremy Paxman" or a "Bobby Charlton".

Makeovers in general tend to be a woman thing: you don't often come across men who say they're gonna wash that girl right outta their hair. You don't spot Stephen Dorrell going for a session of aromatherapy, or a spending spree in Bond Street boutiques, to lift his spirits and take his mind off BSE.

This may be because men tend to spend about four minutes on their daily grooming, which includes shaving and spraying cologne on yesterday's work shirt, and they can see that something like Fergie's makeover looks high-maintenance. Even if Fergie could spare seven

hours every morning to paint her face and suck her cheeks in, she would need an extra staff of four.

She would also need a thick enough skin to step out of her front door in daylight looking like a plumper version of a blanched Michael Jackson. Diana hasn't been half as ambitious in her redesign, and even she still can't do her own hair.

So what possessed Fergie? "She's had a lot of bad press recently," says Dr Skinner, "and you don't do something as dramatic as this by accident. She must have known what effect it would have, so maybe it's a signal that she is making a radical departure."

What, another one? Fergie seems to change her appearance as frequently as other people change their sheets, all the way from Sarah Shell-Suit to the latest version — Sarah Supermodel (though still not Sarah Sexy). Fergie has turned into a human pinball. Each time you think she is about to come to rest, she bounces off again like a bullet in a completely unpredictable direction.

And she usually does her dramatic makeovers in public. She has indulged *Hello!* 15 times since January 1995 alone.

"It seems to me," says Dr Rowe, "she's never done anything to avoid the media. I wonder if she's one of these people who needs to be noticed? You experience your sense of existence in your relationship to other people. If you have a lot of

self-confidence, you don't need all the world to love you.

"But if you feel you don't have good, loving relationships with the people around you, and you feel you're very much on your own, and you don't feel good about yourself, and you feel that if you're not noticed you'll just disappear, then you'll do almost anything to get noticed. Fergie's been excluded from so much now. She even has to buy her own postage stamps. She's pretty isolated. The pictures are a way of saying, 'hey, I'm still here, take notice.'

But where have all the freckles gone?

"Women often have hang-ups about freckles. You get teased about them at school and there's nothing you can do about them.

Maybe Fergie is miserable and she's covered them with white make-up.

Dr Skinner adds that "most blemishes on the face — scars, pigmentation, spots — we don't like. But freckles are somehow accepted, especially on children, though children can be self-conscious about them. You can't control freckles, so as an adult you might want to cover them up. Neil Kinnock has freckles. But a white face? It doesn't really go with hair."

Dr Rowe points out that Fergie has debts, "and we all do all sorts of things when we need the money".

Dr Skinner scratches his head, as bemused as the rest of us by Fergie's antics: "She could have done it for a bet. Who knows?"

The side effects of ginseng are quite well-known. But few doctors would know that, for instance, hawthorn extract is a natural beta-blocker or that Pennyroyal sometimes prescribed for indigestion can be lethal.

The Pharmaceutical Press, which publishes *Martindale*, the standard textbook on drugs, has introduced *Herbal Medicine* (£30), a 300-page companion volume on herbal medicine as a guide for doctors and other health workers, covering medical and culinary uses and interaction with other drugs.

Asbestos link to lung disease and cancer □ BSE risk and children □ Side effects of plant extracts

The killer dust

the lungs and lines the inner wall of the chest cavity, thereby making a sac for the lungs to lie in.

Mesothelioma grows quickly into the lungs and produce a sticky fluid which collects in the pleural cavity.

Treatment is symptomatic, for there is no cure. The amount of exposure to asbes-

tos which will later lead to a mesothelioma is variable, but the tumour is rare unless the exposure, even if not particularly heavy, lasts for at least six months.

The anxious doctor, always scurrying to answer one emergency call after another and therefore slightly out of breath, would probably have

inhaled fibres from the asbestos far deeper than if he had sauntered through the underground passages and taken normal breaths.

Not all types of asbestos are harmful. But the hazards of exposure to the fibres have recently hit the headlines after Westminster City Council was accused of rehousing families in a tower block heavily contaminated by it. Now two elderly people, who developed mesothelioma after playing in the streets of Leeds with asbestos

sis, a fibrosis of the lungs similar to that which used to develop in coal miners before the Second World War.

The fibres of asbestos are inhaled deep into the lung tissue where they trigger the fibrosis, which reduces the lungs' capacity and their ability to absorb oxygen.

As a result of the lung changes, the patient becomes increasingly breathless and is able to manage less and less physical activity.

Eventually, in some cases, respiratory failure develops. The asbestos may also cause thickening of the pleura, which again can be associated with a fluid effusion.

Patients who have been exposed to tobacco smoke as well as asbestos fibres are particularly liable to develop both chronic bronchitis — with a persistent cough and wheezing — and one of the cancers of the lung.

CJD and the age factor

THE scientists studying Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and its links with BSE have concluded that on the balance of probability, though little is known about the mechanisms of the spread of such diseases, children are unlikely to be any more at risk of catching it from eating beef than are adults.

In the Kuru outbreak in New Guinea, in which another transmissible encephalopathy was found among cannibals, children suffered

more from it than did adults.

It is very possible that low resistance to the "prion" disease is genetic and that most people will have a good resistance. It is difficult to be dogmatic about children's resistance to infection because many factors can influence it. Chronic infection can reduce it and in many children aged three to six months, when the maternal resistance acquired *in utero* is wearing off, a form of immuno deficiency occurs. But the development of the defence system is only delayed and is usually normal by the age of 18 months. The problems of resistance in children to infection are complex and still not entirely understood. But in most cases, resistance seems to grow as they become adults.

Herbal warning

A FAILING memory and fading libido are almost invariably associated with ageing. Doctors interested in herbal medicine might recommend that older patients take an extract of the leaves of *Ginkgo biloba* reputed to improve blood supply to the brain and sharpen the intellect, and the root of *Ginseng panax* to restore sexual prowess.

Ginseng is also reputed to boost stamina and concentration.

But it can have side effects and interacts badly with some more orthodox medicines.

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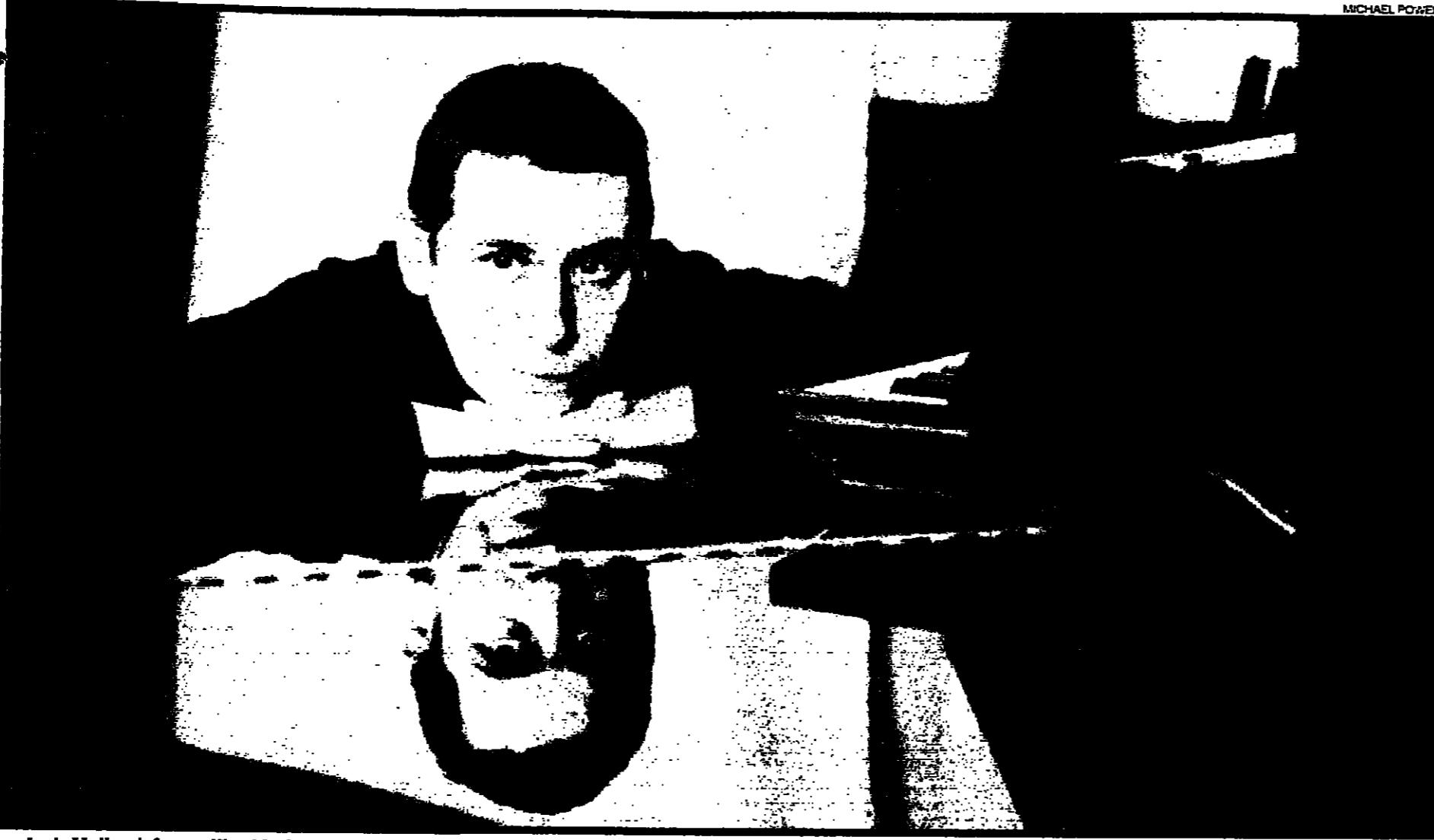
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Jools Holland: funny, likeable, but rendered almost speechless by any topic verging on the personal. The puzzling thing is how he got round to forming his relationship

Jools the obscure

A lighthouse next, Jools Holland thinks. "We'll build it just there," he says, gesturing out of the window past the porter's room, the ladies' lavatory and the platform benches of the cute little railway station he has constructed.

One can only marvel both at the accommodating nature of the south London planning authorities and the grandeur of Holland's vision. His toytown offices are called Helicon Mountain, after the Greek island where poets discovered their muse — a title which seems a touch flamboyant for a suburban hillock with panoramic gasworks views.

Mary Riddell meets Jools Holland, jazz genius and lighthouse builder, who used to find talking about his private life excruciating

Until you walk down to the end of the road, where the small, stone-clad semis are the smarter versions of the nearby homes where Holland grew up, impoverished and flitting from the debt collectors.

Not that he makes a big deal about his past. "If you're going to be a musician, it's all right to come from a big city suburb and be expelled at 15. A bit like Eton and the Guards for old Tory Prime Ministers."

Holland's own finishing school was a stint with a band called Squeeze in the Seven-

ties, followed by *The Tube*, in which he was cast as Paula Yates's screen husband and castigated for swearing on air. The point where he switched from B-list cult figure to serious musician is not absolutely clear, possibly because he so adroitly mastered the difficult art of making accessible the difficult and the obscure. His music programme, *Later*, is running on BBC2, he has just finished a stint with Jazz FM, and this week he will play five concerts with his 12-piece band, the Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. A fine jazz pianist, he is putting the last touches to the band's album, *Sex and Jazz and Rock and Roll*, which will be released

shortly.

He is half-sitting, half-lying on a leather Chesterfield in his station-master's office, and it is fair to say that he does not instantly evoke great allure. His jumper is ancient, his frayed cords a violent shade of pumpkin.

In addition, he coughs as he scratches as he talks, very fast and rather nervously. He knows that — excellent musician as he is — the great fascination is how he came to be so, and, at 38, he still glorifies what sounds the bleakest of childhoods as a romantic adventure.

His father drifting in and out of work, a trawl round different homes, oil lamps because there was no money to pay the electricity bill and a family split up when his parents' marriage fell apart. "I don't think it damaged me. I'd prefer to substitute the word abuse with experience. The worst thing about my parents was not the split but the reunion.

"I was having a nice, frenzied time with no one to bother me when that happened. Not long after they got back together, I moved out." He was 15, with no qualifications but the ability, nurtured by an uncle in his grandma's front room, to play jazz piano.

It would be enough — not

only to sustain him but the family to which he would become guardian. His brother Christopher plays with the point where he switched from B-list cult figure to serious musician is not absolutely clear, possibly because he so adroitly mastered the difficult art of making accessible the difficult and the obscure. His music programme, *Later*, is running on BBC2, he has just finished a stint with Jazz FM, and this week he will play five concerts with his 12-piece band, the Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. A fine jazz pianist, he is putting the last touches to the band's album, *Sex and Jazz and Rock and Roll*, which will be released

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about the difficulties. It's just that it wasn't like it's always been reported.

"We were at Bamburgh filming Bryan Ferry, and Christabel was there because she was a friend of his wife, Lucy. She didn't live at the castle — never has done — and that story must have been quite annoying for the people who did. So, no, it wasn't like the chateaubriand floating down in a nightie with a cup of tea for the film crew.

"Afterwards we didn't meet again for ages. I've blanked exactly what happened, although I wrote it all down in a diary. Her husband, Lord Durham, had gone off with some woman, and Christabel was travelling through Newcastle when we met again.

"And that time we stayed together. Yes, I think we will get married now. There you are, a scoop. It would be nice. A big party, a lovely party, maybe fancy dress. Do people do that for weddings?" Whatever the correct social code might be in the relationship between a member of the aristocracy and the south London boy made good, it was violently breached soon after their relationship began.

Jools's father stole Christabel's jewellery, worth £35,000, and served 15 months in prison. Jools has always said that his father was temporarily soft in the head, but the cause was clearly more complex. Drink? Envy?

"Well, maybe it was drink as well. It was a lot harder for him than for me. I wasn't the person who had to go to prison. I was just disappointed."

The most puzzling thing is how Jools — funny, likeable, but rendered almost speechless by any topic verging on the personal — actually got round to forming his relationship, let alone coping with the bitter rifts which it must have provoked.

"Look, I'm not shy," he says suddenly. "You have to be a bit of a show-off to succeed in music. And yes, you're right

It must, you imagine, be devastating to see a parent so shamed, but Jools Holland has always managed to rationalise the unthinkable. Above his desk is pinned a press clipping about Keith Moore, the accountant who stole £6 million from Sting-Holland, another of his celebrity clients, lost money too, but his chief resentment is for what he still sees as a system geared to the privileged.

"I thought Moore's sentence was too short, and my dad's was too long. It didn't seem fair." And so the magazine cutting remains, a lone reminder of a harsher world in the station-master's office, filled with model trains and vintage Dinky toys. The sort of clutter reminiscent, perhaps, of a lost childhood.

But that is far too complicated. If he wanted toys, Holland says, he would buy himself big, flash cars and grown-up gadgets, but he has no wish for such obvious symbols of success. The lighthouse will do.

Discrimination that makes women sick

Sue Corrigan on the health price high-achievers may pay

CAN SEXISM make women sick? According to two American psychologists it can and, for millenials, it has.

Professors Brett Silverstein and Deborah Perlick, psychologists at two New York universities, say they have identified a syndrome that has afflicted talented and ambitious women at least since the days of the ancient Greeks.

The symptoms of what they have christened Anxious Somatic Depression Syndrome include eating disorders, depression, anxiety, severe headaches, insomnia and menstrual disturbances.

They cite

the daughters of Freud, Marx and Darwin

suffered from chronic and mysterious illnesses, with depression, headaches and insomnia.

The authors measured the incidence among college students of purging — using laxatives, diuretics or self-induced vomiting to control weight. Among women who reported that in childhood they placed much more importance on their own academic achievement than on their household skills, and that their fathers considered their mothers unintelligent, more than third reported purging.

Roughly one in five of the students said either that they felt their mothers had been very limited by being female, or that they felt guilty over having better lives than their mothers, or that they minimised their own accomplishments so that their mothers would not feel bad about themselves.

Women who reported any one of these problems were about 20 times as likely to list symptoms of disordered eating and depressed mood as those who did not.

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All good exams come in threes

The Dearing reforms echo 1944, but they will be none the worse

for that, says Paul Barker

The rise of the meritocracy continues. Sir Ron Dearing's nosebag of new proposals for school exams confirms it. Sift through the chaff of education-speak (why do the people who oversee teachers always use such robotic language?), and you will see that essentially Sir Ron is continuing the trend away from the homogenised, pasteurised school.

This shift began when it became clear that in many places, especially in cities, the comprehensive school and mixed-ability classes would never deliver the promised goods, much less (as egalitarians hoped) the Promised Land. Instead of a single, imposed pattern, the ideal is now for the school to be a kaleidoscope — a multitude of

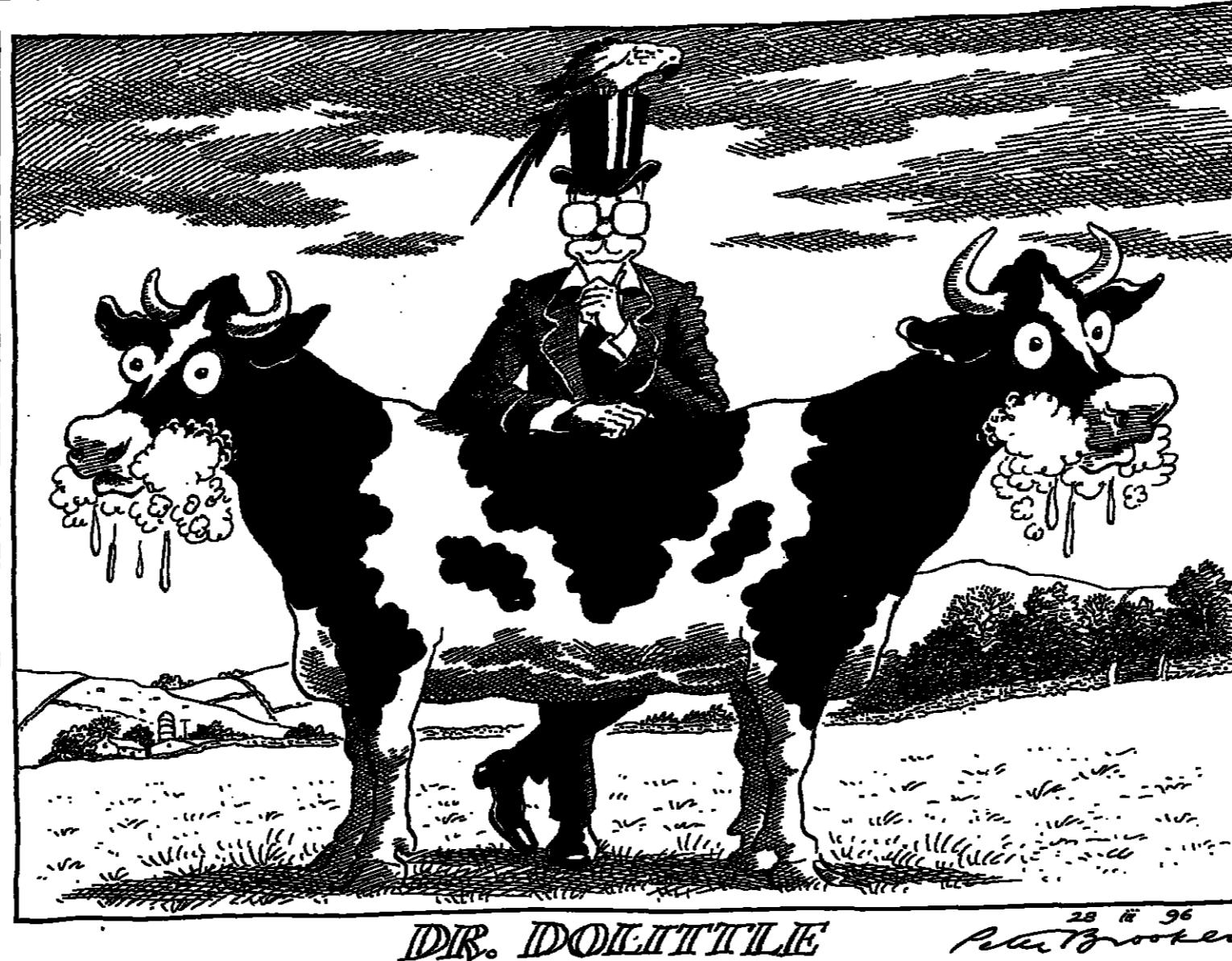
A kaleidoscope has three sides. So did the great watershed Education Act of 1944. It foresaw a grand tripartite system of free grammar schools, technical schools and, for the rest, secondary modern schools. Like all reforms in British schools since the late Victorians made elementary education compulsory, the Act avowedly aimed at catching up with the Germans. Sir Ron makes the same comparison (and tosses in the Japanese for good measure). But the vision was never achieved. Few technical schools were created. Eventually, the grammar school cream was stirred into the secondary modern whey. And that, for the time being, was that.

But Sir Ron is reinventing, if not the wheel, then at least the kaleidoscope. On the one hand, there will be special, tougher A levels — what the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, calls "the gold standard". The belief that some (such as English) have become easier to pass must be rooted out. On the other hand, there will be new "applied" A levels in such subjects as tourism or catering (a tarted-up version of what until now have been called Advanced GNVQs). These are the alternative goals for pupils who want to stay on until 17 or 18, and who should, in the national interest, be encouraged to do so.

At present, however, there are pupils who find it frustrating to be obliged even to stay on to the legal leaving age of 16. They are sometimes, ludicrously, put in for GCSE exams, with no hope of getting better than the dimmest grades. They may even hang around after that, for lack of alternative ambition. (The present bob-a-nob school funding system tempts heads to cling on to pupils. There's cash in it.) But one fifth of pupils don't pass a GCSE, at any grade, in the crucial subjects of English and maths.

This is the third side of Sir Ron's kaleidoscope. These pupils will be allowed to become semi-detached, spending less time in school and more on work training — to their teachers' and fellow-pupils'

Meritocrats will rise, clutching their diplomas



Not just bad luck

The Government failed to get a grip on BSE and has only itself to blame

I have received an interesting letter from Dr Anthony Cullen, an agricultural microbiologist with veterinary experience. He confirms some points I made about BSE on Monday, and adds others.

He agrees that it is an old, but rare, disease in cattle, and recalls treating a cow with "typical signs of BSE" in 1962. He agrees that BSE is more likely to be a cow rather than a sheep prion disease, and points out that only one experiment in the United States in 1979, has succeeded in infecting cows with scrapie by direct injection of sheep brain material.

In sheep, a susceptibility gene determines the infection by scrapie. If a similar mechanism exists in other animals, then human beings would only be infected with BSE if they had a genetic susceptibility, in addition to coming into contact with the organism.

It would help to account for so large a cow epidemic of BSE producing so few human cases. Dr Cullen adds an interesting comment on the epidemic of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease as a result of cannibalism in New Guinea. "The women took the brain tissue of the dead person and pushed it into a bamboo tube before it was cooked. It was believed that it was the act of stuffing these tubes which led to spores of bamboo inoculating the women with infected material into the bloodstream through minute cuts to thumbs or fingers. It seems likely, on general principles, that a small dose would be infected if inoculated, but a large dose would be required by mouth.

The cases [of BSE] in people have often been in meat-handlers."

Dr Cullen adds modestly that he is not an expert in BSE or scrapie. Nonetheless, his experience confirms that BSE is almost certainly a long-standing disease in cattle, which does not seem to have caused identifiable trouble to human beings in the past.

His reference to the susceptibility gene — which could have been widely transmitted in cows by a single bull through AI — and his suggestion of the possible significance of injection, all strengthen the view that any human epidemic caused by BSE is likely to remain a limited one.

But BSE has become a matter of panic, rather than of science. It is also becoming increasingly important as a political issue, threatening just because there is a panic, damaging to Britain's relations with Europe, dangerous to the future of the Government. Many people are now genuinely

frightened of eating beef; even those who regard the risk as negligible are put off by the fact that there is a risk at all. Parents are alarmed by the risk to their children. The hamburger, whether made of British or any other beef, has become an object of almost superstitious horror.

It may be true that one is no more likely to catch Creutzfeldt-Jakob from British beef than one is to win the lottery. That is not much of an argument to use to the British public. 90 per cent of whom have bought lottery tickets in the hope of winning. If one applies the simple test of "how would I behave in their shoes?", the decision of the European Union to ban British beef was obviously inevitable.

If the potentially diseased animals were German or French, and the ban were being imposed to protect British beef-eaters and cattle, there would scarcely be a single vote for letting the alien beef into this country. It is no good our huffing and puffing about the veterinary evidence. Once the Secretary of State had admitted the one human case of probable BSE infection, the argument was irresistible.

The rest of the world has seen things in the same way as the European Union. The United States, which believes almost certainly wrongly, that it has never had a case of BSE, banned British beef as long ago as 1989, and is now thinking of banning beef from other EU countries as well. South Korea has not only banned British beef, but is conducting searches of all flights arriving from Britain to make sure that the passengers are not smuggling in the odd side of beef.

The fact that Britain would have behaved exactly like the rest of the European Union if the situation were reversed has not made the European decision any more palatable here. As the British see it, the EU has a bad common agricultural policy which operates against Britain's interests.

Now that Britain has a particular agricultural problem, and a big one, the talk of Brussels is about British

William Rees-Mogg

issues as majority voting when the British believe that they will always be ruthlessly outvoted?

A ny European observer who imagines that this would be easier for Tony Blair and the Labour Party does not understand the present mood of the British public. We feel that we have been getting the wrong end of the European deal; we feel that British interests are always subordinate to those of the Franco-German alliance. Tony Blair cannot afford to fight the next general election as the Kohl-Chirac candidate. As with the beef panic, the psychology of the British reaction to Europe has become a political reality in its own right. The Government's handling of the BSE epidemic raises the same issues as the Scott report. That left an unforgettable picture of a Government which had lost its administrative grip. One could even feel sorry for ministers, who seemed to be bewildered by the system they had to operate as anyone outside might be. There does not seem to have been much to choose between their handling of BSE and that of arms to Iraq — except that the public cares much more about BSE. The same doubts exist about the honesty of a series of official statements. After 1989, the scientific position, on the

best available advice, was that there was very little risk of BSE infecting human beings. Ministers, particularly John Gummer at agriculture and Kenneth Clarke at health, interpreted that as "no risk", though that was neither an honest nor a prudent interpretation of the scientific evidence, and has since been contradicted by further evidence.

The Government failed for nearly ten years to get a grip either on the epidemic itself or on the safety measures in the abattoirs. If there had been comprehensive action after 1986 or 1989, the epidemic could probably have been contained at a much lower level, and British beef might now be as safe as some ministers say it is.

This lack of grip is only too evident. The Minister of Agriculture thinks slaughtering is necessary; the Secretary of State for Health thinks it is not justified on the scientific evidence. The Treasury does not want to pay for it. The Prime Minister thinks it should go ahead. One has to go back almost as far as the Hoare-Laval Pact, 60 years ago, to find a similar spectacle of a Government which had so lost control of events.

This Government has also completely lost the confidence of the farming community and of most people in the countryside. The farmers were involved in this catastrophe by unpublicised changes in the practices of feed merchants and in the relevant government regulations. Nearly half the cattle farms, and more than half of the specialist beef producers, have still never had a case of BSE. Even those who have suffered from BSE are involved in a catastrophe not of their own making — they never decided to feed cow meat to cows, and were almost all unaware that this was what they were doing. Those farmers who have had no cases, whose herds are BSE-free, are producing wholly safe beef which is regarded by their customers as wholly suspect. Both groups find their survival threatened, and they blame it on the weakness of ministers and on lack of frankness in the past.

No doubt the Government is unlucky. It started the year hoping for a political recovery. As soon as ministers thought they had got over Scott, by a one-vote victory, they found themselves faced with "mad cow" disease. Who would have expected that? But politicians make their own luck. When governments fail to get on top of events, events will always get on top of them.

Labour bound by ballot

Peter Riddell
on Blair's bid to outflank revolt

Tony Blair's decision to ballot Labour Party members this autumn on a draft of its manifesto is his most important initiative since the rewriting of Clause Four. It is intended not only to demonstrate the substance of new Labour, but also to improve the prospects for success in office.

Mr Blair is haunted by the failure of the last two Labour Governments. He believes they founded in part because they lost the support of party activists. There was a conflict between the policies of the party at an election and subsequent constraints which leaders faced in office. This produced constant tension between the party and government, as revealed in the diaries and memoirs of the 1960s and 1970s.

The antics of the party conference and of the national executive, including left-wing ministers such as Tony Benn, in rejecting government policies were a constant irritation to Harold Wilson and James Callaghan. This fostered a myth of betrayal, and fuelled a dramatic swing to the left after the party lost office in 1970 and 1979. At the party conference in the autumn of 1979, MPs and former ministers were boozed by delegates, and treated as traitors. They were accused of abandoning the policies of the party. The only way the leadership could assert authority was by relying on trade union bloc votes to counteract constituency activists.

Mr Blair is trying to avoid these traps by caution about promises and by binding in the party, and also Labour MPs, from the start. The most distinctive feature of Mr Blair's leadership has been his desire to go over the heads of party activists — as well as union leaders — to the wider membership. One-member, one-vote in party decisions has worked strongly in his favour, not least because the membership has risen by nearly a half to 365,000 over the past two years, and many of these new members are keen Blairites.

Not only did Mr Blair receive strong support from individual party members when he was elected leader in July 1994, but he also won the 85 per cent backing of members over the rewriting of Clause Four last April. This was despite early opposition from some left-wing activists and votes against change by the two largest unions.

The party constitution was amended last October to allow for membership ballots on major policy and other questions. The party conference, where the unions still have 50 per cent of the votes, remains sovereign, but in practice a mass ballot will have greater legitimacy. A series of policy documents appearing over a few months will be brought together in an early version of the manifesto in June, before being debated at the party conference in October and then going to a ballot short afterwards.

Mr Blair is adamant that this will be a tight document — no "shopping-list of policies starting with agriculture and ending with zoos", as Robin Cook put it. Instead, there are likely to be a few "flagship" policies, symbolising how Labour would be different from the Tories, such as the individual learning accounts for training being published later today. Gordon Brown says detailed proposals on tax will not come until the full election manifesto, in part because of the probability of further tax cuts in November.

June's document will avoid the detailed and ultimately counter-productive pledges on tax, child benefits and pensions which John Smith made before the 1992 election. The statement is likely to be sparse — making a virtue of its absence of wish-lists and its stress on hard choices, with resources being shifted within existing budgets. The risk is that it will be bland. Following the 1987 and 1992 defeats, Labour leaders are obsessed with not saying anything which allows the Tories to accuse them of favouring public spending and taxes.

The process matters as much as the substance. As Mr Blair said, the ballot "will give the party an opportunity actively to pledge their support for the Labour programme for government". The unstated corollary is that activists should complain later about the programme, and if, or rather, when, ministers have to take tough economic decisions in office. Mr Blair wants to ensure that not only are no extravagant promises made but that the party is explicitly committed to what is promised.

The move may be bold, but it should not be risky. Members are being offered a straight yes or no: the main doubt is over the level of turnout. But merely by launching the exercise, Mr Blair has given the leadership and the party a focus and something to do over the long pre-election period. The prize is that Labour could take office in a year or so on a realistic programme which the party has endorsed. He wants to show that Blairism is backed by the party. But he will not confuse a desire to win with unconditional support. Mr Blair could still face plenty of rumblings and party rows if he wins power. New Labour may be in control, but old Labour is not dead yet.

Labour day

NEW YORK is to unbutton its *embonpoint* and embrace Tony Blair. The Labour leader, who yesterday announced that every cloth-cap member of his party will be able to vote on its manifesto, is to be guest of honour at a £750-a-head lunch next month organised by the British American Chamber of Commerce. He will be given the sort of treatment that would have Donald Trump salivating over his foulard tie.

The seven-course at the Empire State Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt hotel is uncharted water for Labour. Previous speakers at the chamber's big events include Baroness Thatcher and John Major. But Blair is the first Opposition leader, let alone Labour politician, to speak to the gathering in living memory.

Whenever Neil Kinnock crossed the Atlantic in the 1980s, he was kept waiting by the American big guns, or passed on to low-ranking officials. But before his big day in New York, Blair will be holding summit-style talks with President Clinton and Vice President Gore, men of his own age with whom he is politically sympathetic. To show he is not all left-sided, however, he

will also be meeting Nixon's Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger.

Tables for ten are being hawked round the Big Apple at £750 each. Champagne socialists may be disappointed that the cash isn't going to new Labour coffers — but, my dears, what an honour for Tony.

• Literary news: Bertelsmann, the publishing giant from the Ruhr Valley, has written to Thomas

Hardy and, unable to find his address, sent its missive to his local library in Dorchester. "Dear Thomas Hardy," says the letter, "what do you think about the use of computers in libraries?" County librarian Carleton Earl is unimpressed: "Geography's all right, but they should jolly well mug up on their history."

• Could Terry Major-Ball have found his own, idiosyncratic sol-

Yorkie bar

YET MORE bovine information from Harriet, my uncle Roddy's confused moor. Those two pillars of Britishness, the clergy and farmers, have succumbed to the beef madness.

Beef is off at Bishoptopore, the home of Dr David Hope, Archbishop of York, and a fixture on the northern meat circuit. Much missed already are Hope's home-made cottage pies — guaranteed to make even the sturdiest Mothers' Union member tremble — and the pastry pies made by a friendless talented palace chef.

Meanwhile, in a survey in *Farming News*, it is reported that while 97 per cent of farmers vow to have roast beef for Sunday lunch, 65 per cent feebly confessed to having been put off their beef.

• Could Terry Major-Ball have found his own, idiosyncratic sol-



Priceless

LISTEN for the dull clank of medallion on chest at Phillips Auctioneers next month as *Reedes* of a certain age bid for relics from the love lives of Brigitte Bardot, Jean Shrimpton and Jean Simmons. The lots include lipstick holders, watches and rings given to the three by their one-time lovers. The women clearly ignored the words of Zsa Zsa Gabor, no slouch in these matters: "Give back the ring, if you must dahlings," she advised.

Of particular interest is a gold watch in the sale, given to Miss Shrimpton, by the actor Terence

Stamp. Across the face is written "Shrimpton" while the back is engraved: "With love Terry". Shrimpton writes tersely of the watch in her autobiography: "I gave that away in later years. I didn't need reminding of my name."

Bath oils

THE MARQUESS of Bath and his wife were scrutinising Gray Jolliffe's saucy cartoons with an intensity that only a connoisseur of erotic art could muster on Tuesday night at an exhibition in the Grosvenor House hotel. He explained he was not inclined to buy any of the works: "I prefer to paint my own."

The pigtailed aristocrat's latest is a series of heads of his ancestors around a spiral staircase at Longleat. "I have already completed a series of heads of my loved ones," he says, "now I am doing the crowned heads."

Palace pies

THE BINDIS and bhajis which I regularly eat are ferried regularly from Kuldip Makhan's international restaurant in Mayfair to Buckingham Palace. They are not the only take-away meals enjoyed by members

of the Royal Family. A restaurant in Kensington which was frequented by Princess Margaret in the 1960s — and her maid Maggie Jones at the time of her marriage to Antony Armstrong-Jones — supplies Kensington Palace with pies.

"The ladies-in-waiting come down with their bowls and the kitchen makes something up for them," says a regular. "They love the pies — fisherman's and steak and kidney. Can't get enough of them."

P.H.S

At a time when European governments from the EEC to Spain and Italy are reining in their public spending, the UK government is still spending more than ever on its welfare state.

It is the latest in a series of budget deficits, which have been growing steadily since 1979.

But the UK government is not alone in this. Other countries like France and Germany are also facing similar problems.

However, the UK government is taking steps to address the problem, including a freeze on public sector pay and a reduction in welfare state spending.

It is hoped that these measures will help to bring the UK government's budget deficit under control.

However, it is not clear whether these measures will be enough to solve the problem, and whether they will be accepted by the public.

It is also not clear whether the UK government's approach to the problem will be successful in the long run.



ACADEMIC QUESTIONS

The A level should not be debased

Sir Ron Dearing certainly deserves full marks for effort. His 150-page report on the future of education for those aged between 16 and 19 makes nearly 200 recommendations. Sir Ron hopes his suggestions will simplify the structure of qualifications for school-leavers, increase the numbers who have something to show for their studies, broaden the range of important skills acquired and improve standards overall. It is an ambitious programme, and several of his proposals are worthwhile. But, far from strengthening the A level, the "gold standard" of the education system, there are reasons to fear that Sir Ron's suggestions may leave it still debased.

The area most immediately in need of improvement is technical and vocational education. The system of General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs) and NVQs does not enjoy parity of esteem with A-levels. The vocational qualifications are widely perceived to be less rigorously policed. Nevertheless, the number of pupils who do not complete the course is still higher than among those attempting A levels.

Sir Ron, rightly, argues GNVQs would command greater respect if external assessments were used more widely. Outside verification that standards have been breached will enhance the credibility of the qualification. Other recommendations intended to increase the status of GNVQs are more questionable. Bringing together the two regulatory bodies, the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, as well as constructing the initial syllabuses to allow pupils to switch at an early stage between A level and GNVQ in similar fields appears efficient. Some pupils may gain from the flexibility but others could suffer from a levelling down of standards between technical and academic courses, over time.

The proposal to rename the GNVQ the "applied A level" is also of dubious virtue. Calling polytechnics universities has not improved the quality of their education. GNVQs will command respect by guar-

anteeing over time a nationally agreed level of expertise in a specific field. They should seek to command respect in their own right, not by riding on the reputation of another examination.

The A level itself is under threat in two small, but significant, ways. The first is Sir Ron's suggested new umbrella qualification, the "National Advanced Diploma". This is designed to ensure school-leavers study across a broader spectrum but, in doing so, runs counter to the spirit of specialisation that makes the A level system so attractively rigorous. Moreover, the Diploma treats technical and academic qualifications in such a way as to potentially lessen the distinction between the two. The Diploma is also designed to entrench "key skills" in "number" and "literacy". Sir Ron's aim is admirable. But if pupils cannot count and communicate by the time they are 16 a new piece of paper is unlikely to help.

The other erosion of excellence is the ascendancy of the "modular" approach to A levels. Sir Ron wisely notes that the modules are popular with A level students because they allow sections of the course to be sat, and re-sat, in such a way as to bump up marks overall. Fewer and fewer pupils earn the marks to pass their A levels at the final exam. A level grades have been rising slowly even though a far larger proportion of the school population now take A levels, arousing strong suspicion that with, among other things, the growth of modular teaching, the qualification is easier to acquire.

Sir Ron is alive to the weakness of the modular system but that does not stop him arguing for an eventual unified approach where half the marks for the A level come from modules, half from the final exam. Modular teaching is the enemy of excellence and a hidden danger in an ever-more competitive world. Sir Ron should not be giving it any encouragement. The A level is the qualification to which pupils aspire and which employers respect. Specialist knowledge, sophisticated skills and tough final examinations are its hallmarks. The Government should get back to those basics.

PAIN FOR GAIN

Cruelty, charity and the RSPCA

Britain's charities are the mirrors which reflect our concerns as a society. From these institutions — which span the range from the educational and the religious to the recreational and the eccentric — one learns as much about the moral inclinations of Britons as one does from Parliament, from the English language and from the country's press. No charity has been more emblematic of these concerns than the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

Yet the RSPCA, today, is a body which appears to have lost a little of its direction. The country's largest charity — it has over 200 branches, each registered separately with the Charity Commission — was conceived originally to address everyday acts of cruelty and harm to animals. Painfully tethered dogs, maltreated cats, fox cubs, badgers and swans that swallow fishing tackle were the familiar subjects of its campaigns. As a nation, Britons abhor wanton cruelty to animals and the RSPCA, by popular support, was the body which best endeavoured to protect animals from unthinking inhumanity.

The animal charity, however, has veered some distance away from its original, unimpeachable trajectory. The Charity Commissioners, who oversee the activities of institutions such as the RSPCA, have now alerted the animal body to a potentially costly risk: stop campaigning against those activities which are "beneficial to the community" or you will endanger your

charitable status. The commissioners have in mind, specifically, the RSPCA's campaign against animal vivisection, commonly conducted by the medical community in pursuit of their scientific ends.

The commissioners are right, and their directive must not be misunderstood. Under a complex mixture of statute and common law, charities are organisations which enjoy tax exemptions by particular virtue of their activities: these must be for the public benefit, and can include animal welfare. But the courts have refused consistently to recognise political objects as "charitable", and this must include a campaign to put a stop to vivisection. Such experiments are entirely lawful, and a campaign to procure a change in the law is an inherently political campaign.

The RSPCA is not the first major charity to fall foul of the commissioners in this way. Oxfam was given warning often over its campaigns to end apartheid in South Africa, and over pamphlets urging the cancellation of Third World debt. The point is not that such campaigns — whether against apartheid or animal vivisection — are inherently undesirable; in fact, both, in their respective times, have enjoyed considerable popular appeal in this country. The real issue is whether a charitable organisation's income should, in the circumstances, enjoy exemption from income tax, corporation tax and capital gains tax. There is no reason why it should, if it exceeds the bounds allowed to it by law.

OUR FRETFUL RELATIONS

A good judgement from the Strasbourg court

At a time when decisions taken by pan-European institutions are not popular with everyone in Britain, let us pause to cheer a commonsense judgment issued yesterday from the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. British judges had previously insisted that a journalist, William Goodwin, reveal the name of a source who had been assured anonymity; they had fined the reporter when he refused. The ECHR rejected these decisions — and rightly so.

Mr Goodwin has emerged victorious from a long and wearisome struggle. Back in 1989 and only a few months out of university in his first job on *The Engineer*, he received a leak of some internal figures from inside a company which was in the course of raising fresh capital. Alerted to Mr Goodwin's knowledge before anything was printed, the company won an injunction to suppress any mention of its name, let alone its financial plans. Mr Goodwin was then pressed to reveal his source. He consistently refused, losing cases in the High Court and House of Lords and was fined £5,000.

As similar cases have revealed, British judges think they smell humbug when they are faced with journalists claiming that a promise of anonymity must override a court's demand to reveal a source. In the House of Lords, Lord Bridge wondered out loud at Mr Goodwin's "extraordinary attitude that he was entitled to set the law at nought. He puts his duty to his profession above his duty to obey the law."

To no avail Mr Goodwin's lawyers pointed out that their client had no problem with the law in general but only with the courts' request for a name which his word to his source prevented him revealing. However the courts maintained that the company's access to justice overrode Mr Goodwin's promise.

Contrast Lord Bridge's vain pronouncements with yesterday's judgment. The judges of Strasbourg point out that two competing public interests, freedom of expression and justice, must be seen in proportion. Only exceptional difficulties and dangers — prevention of crime or risk to life and limb — should justify a demand for a journalist to break his word. The fine imposed on Mr Goodwin was not "necessary in a democratic society" for the protection of the company's rights under English law.

The European Court of Human Rights lost its own sense of proportion at the end of its judgment. Journalists should be entitled to compensation, the judges opined, for the "mental anguish and anxiety of being threatened with imprisonment for obeying their conscience and their ethical duties." Mr Goodwin had not sought compensation for his mental anguish since he quite rightly considers this kind of legal fight a natural and occupational hazard of journalism. Relations between the press and authorities are essentially fretful and should remain able to be so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Some lessons and warnings from Britain's BSE disaster

From Professor Harold Stern

Sir, The recent pronouncements of ministers on the safety of British beef provide a prime example of dangerous, authoritative conclusions that consistently ignore basic facts. In particular, statements that the hazard of BSE resides only in the brain and spinal cord and other offal and that "quality" beef, such as steaks and ribs, is safe could well be erroneous. Muscle is riddled with nerve fibres in communication with the central nervous system and along which the infecting agent could travel.

The fact that it is only in the brain and spinal cord and some other offal that the agent of BSE can be detected by animal inoculation in the laboratory is nothing but an indication of the insensitivity of the techniques currently available to us.

Moreover, to ask a committee to consider whether children are more susceptible to the disease is ridiculous. Is it all right to institute measures to protect children but to continue to expose young adults to the infection?

There is no information available on the infecting dose for humans, but this may not be large, as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) has been effectively transmitted by corneal transplants taken from patients without clinical evidence of the disease.

The occurrence of CJD in 10 young adults in one country, some undoubtedly exposed to infected cattle, within a relatively short period of time (report and leading article, March 21) is unique in medical literature. No reputable medical scientist can ignore this fact, and extreme caution should therefore be exercised when discussing the safety of beef.

This must be the case when dealing with a clinically dreadful disease, which is, as far as we know, invariably fatal and for which there is no treatment.

Only complete eradication of the cattle population can remedy the problem. The number of cases of BSE may now be diminishing but we cannot be certain that the infection will not eventually stabilise in herds, with

increasing length of the incubation period and increasing numbers of animals apparently healthy but infected.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD STERN
(Professor Emeritus of Virology,
University of London).
16 Hill Rise,
Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW1.
March 27.

From Mr Henry Edmunds

Sir, In 1988 the Ministry of Agriculture initiated a scrapie monitoring scheme for sheep. I was one of the original participants in this and have supported it subsequently. A proportion of my sheep are culled each year and their brains examined for the presence of scrapie. In the event of being able to demonstrate two years free of the disease the flock then achieves export status.

This scheme would, in my view, be equally applicable to cattle. Each herd should be tested in this way and only those achieving a BSE-free status allowed to market their stock through the normal channels. In this way all herds carrying the disease would be identified.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY EDMUND
The Cholderton Estate,
The Estate Office,
Cholderton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
March 26.

From Mr Andrew Smyth

Sir, As a manufacturer, my company exists in a fiercely competitive environment relying on our own efforts for its success or failure. We would not expect to be shown much consideration if we made products which were dangerous to our customers.

Agriculture, by contrast, is a business whose success is further subsidised by taxpayers. Not content with this, when selling products which might kill their customers, it seems that farmers, to use the word in today's extraordinary letter from Mr Casper Bush, "require" compensation for their mistakes.

Yours faithfully,
B. R. SMITH,
Aston House,
Morville, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

From Mr Richard Smith

Sir, As a manufacturer, my company exists in a fiercely competitive environment relying on our own efforts for its success or failure. We would not expect to be shown much consideration if we made products which were dangerous to our customers.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. SMITH,
Wayne Hill,
Theydon Road, Epping, Essex.
March 26.

From Mr B. R. Yates

Sir, Your headline (March 27) announces, "Cabinet may accept call for slaughter". At last, a useful suggestion, but the question remains whether we should slaughter the whole Cabinet or just those members who have reached the end of their useful working lives.

Yours faithfully,
B. R. YATES,
Aston House,
Morville, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

N Ireland Tories

From Dr Esmond Birnie

Sir, The Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Ireland have both rightly stressed the importance of all genuinely democratic parties participating in the forthcoming Forum elections in Northern Ireland. I therefore find it bizarre that Conservative Central Office should apparently judge it inappropriate for the Conservative Party itself to contest these elections.

It would seem that the 45,000 Conservative voters in Northern Ireland in the 1992 general election are now to be disenfranchised. Perhaps the party leadership will tell us which other party we should vote for?

The December 1993 Downing Street declaration proclaimed that our Government has "... no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland". Should we now conclude that one logical implication of this is that the Conservative Party has no "electoral interest" in the province? If this were true then it would be a sad position for both the party and the people of Northern Ireland.

Perhaps the deduction we should draw from this is Dr Brian Mawhinney's own political career is that the only way for an Ulsterman to get on in Tory politics is to emigrate from Northern Ireland to Great Britain.

Yours faithfully,
ESMOND BIRNIE
(Deputy Chairman, Conservative
Area Council, Northern Ireland),
c/o Apartment 22,
Ashleigh Manor,
Windsor Avenue, Belfast.
March 26.

Popular classics

From Mr John Woolf

Sir, The argument as to the artistic integrity of musical soundbites (letters, March 23, 26) is very enjoyable. I cannot resist throwing in the fact that, in addition to making his recording of the *Rosenkavalier* waltzes in the 1920s, Strauss agreed to do so with only three first violins, compared with the 14 or more he would have used in the opera house.

I had the pleasure of knowing one of the three in later life, George Whittaker, a child prodigy who played in Sir Henry Wood's orchestra, aged 15, became a front-desk player in the London Symphony Orchestra, was a fine chess player, an enthusiastic walker across large tracts of North Africa, and, like Strauss, a practical man.

Becoming an elderly postman on retirement to Chalfont St Giles, he ensured his deliveries by making them in waltztime on a large tricycle.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WOOLF
(Director,
Park Lane Group,
Bedford Chambers,
Covent Garden Piazza, WC2.
March 26.

Sports letters, page 45

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

National interest in Europe's union

From Mr Michael Welsh

Sir, If justification were needed for Helmut Kohl's Louvain speech (report, February 3; leading article, February 5), when he warned of the potential for disaster if the European Union were to break up, it is supplied by Bill Cash's piece, "A party of the nation?" (March 21).

There may be a case for saying that Britain's national interest can be served only if she opt out of the process of European integration, but Cash goes much further. According to him, if 14 other independent sovereign states are not prepared voluntarily to accept an entirely British agenda, they should be compelled to do so, perhaps by use of a veto of the inter-governmental conference.

This is certainly nationalist, but it is profoundly undemocratic. The inevitable result would be a return to economic nationalism, protection and the balkanisation of Western Europe.

Conservatives in the House of Commons and elsewhere who think of themselves as Eurosceptic must wonder whether they go along with all this.

Sentences such as "We have been treated with too much contempt for too long by those with whom we have tried to co-operate" have the authentic ring of Bismarck and the 1930s dictators; they have nothing whatever to do with Disraeli's generous vision of a party of One Nation.

The test to be applied is how we — let alone Bill Cash — would have reacted if a similar piece, *mutatis mutatis*, had appeared in *Die Zeit*.

Yours truly,
MICHAEL WELSH
(Chief Executive,
Action Centre for Europe Ltd,
181 Town Lane, Whittle le Woods,
Chorley, Lancashire.
March 22.

Popular classics

From Mr John Woolf

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China and Taiwan

From the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

Sir, I was shocked by the leading articles on the Taiwan question in your paper (March 12 and 19). Taiwan has been an inalienable part of China since ancient times, and the Taiwan question is entirely China's internal affair. This is a fact recognised by the international community.

Since the People's Republic of China was founded, most countries in the world, including the United States, have recognised the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China and Taiwan as a part of China.

Nothing but the claim that denies this fact is "dangerous nonsense" as you argue, and the Taiwan question brooks no foreign interference, in whatever form or under whatever pretext. It is the sacred right of each and every sovereign state and a fundamental principle of international law to safeguard national unity and territorial integrity.

The recent tension in the Taiwan Strait was entirely a result of the Taiwan authorities' advocating "Taiwan's independence" and their intensified efforts in creating "one China, one Taiwan" or "two Chinas". The United States shoulders unshirkable responsibility for this as well. It is the US rather than China that has violated the three Sino-US joint communiques.

The wrong decisions of the United

BARRY BATELOR/PA

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Muhammad Ali, boxer and political activist, reassessed in *Reputations* (BBC2, 9pm). Review: Mathew Bond grudgingly warms to *Hearts of Gold* Page 47

OPINION

Academic questions

The A level is the qualification to which pupils aspire and which employers respect. Specialist knowledge and tough final examinations are its hallmarks. The Government should get back to those basics Page 21

Pain for gain

The real issue is whether a charitable organisation's income should, in the circumstances, enjoy exemption from income tax, corporation tax and capital gains tax Page 21

Our fretful relations

Judges think they smell humbug when faced with journalists claiming that a promise of anonymity must override a court's demand to reveal a source Page 21

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

It may be true that one is no more likely to catch Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease from British beef than one is to win the Lottery. But that is not much of an argument to use to the British public, 90 per cent of whom have bought lottery tickets in the hope of winning Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

This will be a tight document — no "shopping-list of policies starting with agriculture and ending with zoos", as Robin Cook put it. There are likely to be a few "flagship" policies, symbolising how Labour would be different Page 20

JOHN BRYANT

A century ago beef tea was the chosen stimulant for the mad keen sportsman, thought even more effective than morphine, strychnine and belladonna. You could take what you liked — and it was your own lookout Page 46

Terence Skemp, Counsel to the Speaker, 1980-85; David Packard, US Deputy Secretary of Defense; Professor Christopher Argyll, economist Page 43

BSE: Robin Hood; EU and UK status; China and Taiwan; Orde Wingate Page 21

NEWS

Blair to ballot party on manifesto

■ Tony Blair is to ballot every member of his party on his general election manifesto in an unprecedented move to prevent a Labour government running into internal trouble that could damage its chances of survival.

■ All 365,000 members will be consulted next autumn about a draft manifesto setting out Labour's priorities for the first years of government and the document will then be fine-tuned in the weeks before the election. Pages 1, 2, 20

Revolution in the sixth form

■ Gillian Shephard signalled the biggest shake-up in sixth-form study for more than 40 years when she ordered tighter A-level standards and introduced a qualifications framework linking vocational and academic courses. She accepted a raft of recommendations from Sir Ron Dearing Page 1, 10, 11, 21

French victim

A French victim of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease may have died of the same strain of the illness as the British patients whose cases have been linked to "mad cow" disease Pages 1, 9, 20, 21

Tories hold up

Support for the Tories has held up in the first opinion poll published since the beef row erupted. But Labour and Tony Blair continue to enjoy their highest ratings since last July Page 10

School power

Wide-ranging proposals to give all schools more power, leading eventually to the establishment of more grammar schools, will be promised by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary Page 2

MP banned

Sir Nicholas Scott, MP, was fined £450 and banned from driving after he left an accident where a toddler's pushchair was trapped between cars Page 3

Charge dropped

Rachel Heath, a home help accused of attempting to murder a woman who was suffering from terminal cancer, had her case dismissed Page 5

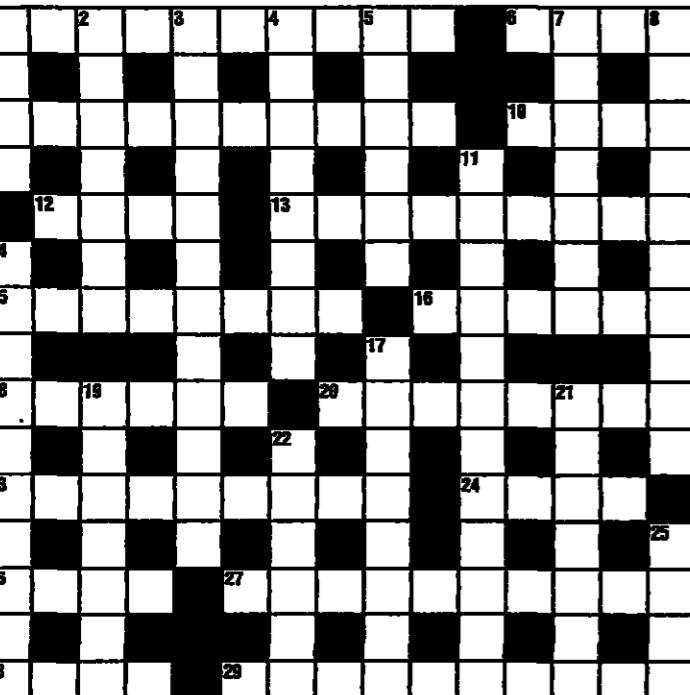
Patient killed father

A mental patient allowed back into the community despite known homicidal tendencies killed his father and two pensioners Page 6

Navy women wear the trousers

■ The Royal Navy's bell-bottom trousers have been reprieved after a review of uniforms. Female ratings are going to wear them as well, with the square rig top of their male counterparts, and they will no longer be allowed to carry a handbag to work. The flares had been thought dated but sailors who tested straight-leg trousers said they looked too ordinary Page 1

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,127



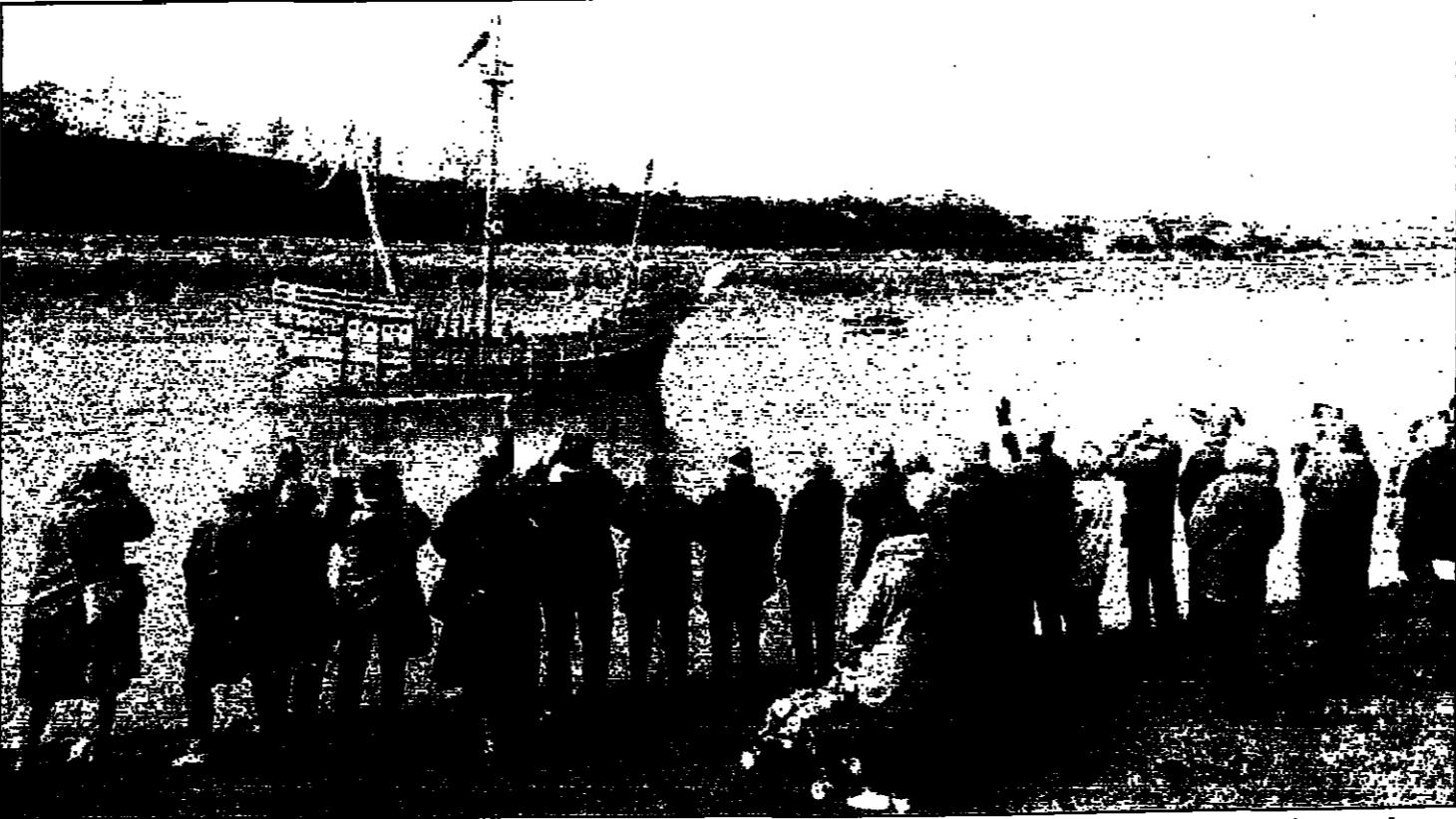
ACROSS

- Give me feathers for my clothing? Not originally (4-2-4).
- Beak originally what is the charge is (4).
- Possibly an MP, et al., I run into here (10).
- Relation of fisherman, say, re-turned new fish (4).
- Lock up using various keys (4).
- Look into one special point as proposer of terms (9).
- In the grip of corrupt bosses and editor (6).
- Fly — from France, is repeatedly coming back (6).
- Football striker reported (6).
- King's supporter as employer of staff, I note (8).
- Pollute river with contents of bursting crates (9).
- Was willing to create political group (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,126

DYNAMIC HARNESS
RA O LO E V H
INTRUSIVE ABELE
V U T F G N P
EARTH FORTWITH
R A W H E N E
CLOAK AND DAGGER
I S N O N D
RUN THE GAUNTLET
R E E B E N S
INTERPRET NICHE
J S O A A L S
ADULT SUBSTRATA
T K O O L A S M
EYEBROW ELLIPSE

Times Two Crossword, page 43



Thousands of people watched *The Matthew*, a replica of John Cabot's flagship, as she left Bristol to start sea trials yesterday

BUSINESS

Jaguar: The company won £80 million of aid that will help to pay for investment to build a new car and create thousands of jobs Page 23

Motorway: BICC and Trafalgar House have scooped a £200 million contract to build and operate a new motorway linking the M1 to the A1 north of Leeds Page 23

Competition: Plans for a law to prohibit cartels, anti-competitive agreements between companies and other market-rigging behaviour have been tabled by the Government Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 11.5 points to close at 367.24. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.2 to 83.4 after a fall from \$1,522 to \$1,5185 but a rise from DM2,246 to DM2,2583 Page 26

... easy GCSEs

Students criticised GCSEs as "too easy" in a survey of 16 to 19-year-olds conducted for Sir Ron Dearing. They also doubted the relevance of A levels for later life Page 11

Briton ran for his life

A Briton told the "backpacker trial" how he ran for his life when an Australian roadworker accused of killing seven tourists opened fire on him Page 14

Turin trauma

The BSE crisis has cast a harsh new light on the EU summit in Turin, an event intended to set a serene tone for the Maastricht review conference Page 15

WIDE RANGING PROPOSALS

Chris Patten, the Governor, rejected Chinese proposals to set up a second legislature in Hong Kong before the colony's handover in 1997 Page 16

Patten refusal

A mental patient allowed back into the community despite known homicidal tendencies killed his father and two pensioners Page 6

WIDE RANGING PROPOSALS

Navy women wear the trousers

■ The Royal Navy's bell-bottom trousers have been reprieved after a review of uniforms. Female ratings are going to wear them as well, with the square rig top of their male counterparts, and they will no longer be allowed to carry a handbag to work. The flares had been thought dated but sailors who tested straight-leg trousers said they looked too ordinary Page 1

SPORT

Racing: Cigar, the 1995 North American horse of the year, won the \$4 million Dubai World Cup from two other American horses, *Soul Of The Matter* and *L'Carriere* Page 34

Motor racing: Viviane Senna, sister of the late world champion driver, has raised \$2 million this year towards helping Brazilian children to escape poverty Page 46

Rugby league: After nine months of rehabilitation and pain, Franco Botica is ready to resume the most prodigious points-scoring career in the modern game Page 42

Markets: Tony Alcock, the defending champion, recovered from 24-15 down to defeat Noel Kennedy in the West End is a sentimental and silly musical, says Benedict Nightingale Page 36

Not convincing: Stephen Sondheim's *Passion*, newly arrived in the West End, is a sentimental and silly musical, says Benedict Nightingale Page 36

WIDE RANGING PROPOSALS

White wash: Why the Duchess of York felt the need to flaunt her new blanched looks Page 18

WIDE RANGING PROPOSALS

Robbins speaks: Why Tim Robbins spoke up for the inmates on *death row* in his new film *Dead Man Walking* Page 35

WIDE RANGING PROPOSALS

FEATURES

Rhythm and blues: Jools Holland, jazz pianist and TV personality, used to find talking about his private life excruciating Page 19

Sexism and sickness: Psychologists have found a syndrome affecting ambitious women Page 19

WIDE RANGING PROPOSALS

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ WIZARD OZ
Free 16-page pullout to holidays in Australia, from downtown Sydney to the deepest outback

■ MAN FROM AUNTIE
Valerie Grove meets Marmaduke Hussey, the retiring BBC chairman

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WIDE RANGING PROPOSALS

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ECONOMIC VIEW 29

Hong Kong: the magnet for foreign cash



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Mysteries of the origins of language



SPORT 42-48

Sister of mercy keeps memory of Senna alive

AUSTRALIA GOES FOR SELF DRIVE
Travel 40, 41

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MARCH 28 1996

Acquisitive Lloyds TSB courts New Zealand bank

By RACHEL BRIDGE
AND PATRICIA TEHAN

LLOYDS TSB is believed to be planning its third massive acquisition in less than a year with the takeover of Trust Bank New Zealand, which has a market valuation of £600 million.

The deal follows its £1.8 billion acquisition of Cheltenham & Gloucester last August and the £15 billion merger with TSB in December.

Lloyds has been a big player in New Zealand since the mid-1960s when it bought the National Bank of

New Zealand. Sir Brian Pitman, Lloyds TSB chief executive, has made no secret of his admiration for the New Zealand banking and financial system and the economy's low level of inflation.

An announcement is expected from Lloyds TSB through the National Bank of New Zealand within days. A spokeswoman last night said: "Lloyds TSB does not comment on market rumour."

The bank did, however, yesterday move to deny a market rumour in Australia that it was to buy the 50 per cent stake in the Common-

wealth Bank, which is up for sale for an estimated A\$500 million.

Lloyds TSB does not currently have a significant presence in Australia, where four banks are thought to be inviting bids, although National Bank of New Zealand does have a wholesale banking business in Australia.

HSBC, Midland Bank's parent, yesterday denied rumours that it was seeking a tie-up with Trust Bank. The bank's Hongkong Bank unit had been seen as a possible suitor for the New Zealand bank. Commonwealth Bank of Australia's ASB

Bank has been seen as the other potential partner for Trust Bank.

Trust Bank, which is mostly involved in mortgage lending, is 78 per cent-owned by community trusts. A 22 per cent stake in Trust Bank was floated on the New Zealand stock market two years ago. The bank recently confirmed that it was in negotiations with an unnamed party over "a possible interest in amalgamation". Its market value has been estimated at about NZ\$1.32 billion, or £600 million. It is not clear whether Lloyds TSB will acquire the whole of Trust Bank

or a stake of about 50 per cent. Some community trust shareholders have said they are not willing to sell.

The bank would be a good fit with National Bank of New Zealand and with Lloyds TSB's mortgage expertise in the UK. The interest in Trust Bank is seen by some as a change of heart. Lloyds TSB had been rumoured as a seller of National Bank of New Zealand, but was said to be seeking "too high a price", according to an analyst.

However, analysts have expressed some doubt about how Lloyds TSB will fund such a deal. Its

tier 1 capital ratio fell to below 6 per cent after its reverse takeover of TSB. One analyst said yesterday: "It is not in any position to spend."

Lloyds TSB could raise funds through the issue of tier 1 preference shares. In the past, it has shown itself to be against raising capital for acquisitions, preferring to finance them from its own resources.

In the year to March 31, 1995, Trust Bank reported a 27 per cent rise in after-tax profits to NZ\$92.4 million, assisted by higher revenues and cost reductions, exceeding prospectus forecasts.

Jobs bonanza as Jaguar wins £80m aid

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

JAGUAR yesterday won its fight for £80 million worth of aid that will help to pay for investment to build a new car and create thousands of jobs.

There will be 1,300 new jobs at Jaguar with up to 5,000 created in component suppliers, while another 3,000 in Jaguar and at Ford plants will be safeguarded.

The European Commission dropped objections to British government plans for grants towards the £400 million cost of developing the mid-range car in this country after the personal intervention of Ian Lang, President of the Board

of Trade. He told European Commissioners that the investment was one of the most important in the European motor industry but would be lost to the United States unless the aid was available to Ford, Jaguar's parent company.

Ford could have built the new, small Jaguar at an existing plant at Wixom, near Detroit, one of many areas of the USA desperately bidding for new investment by motor manufacturers.

Mr Lang said yesterday: "We faced very tough competition from an alternative site in the US and I have been personally in touch with Com-

missioner van Miert in Brussels about the strategic importance of this project for the British car industry and for the West Midlands."

Even though there was an emotional attachment to Britain, Alex Trotman, Ford's British-born chairman, was prepared to ditch plans for a site here for the sake of producing the car at lower cost in a modern American plant. Now Britain will build the car that enthusiasts have dreamt about for more than 25 years.

Jaguar is planning a small saloon, codenamed X200, that will challenge the C and E-class models from Mercedes and BMW's 5-series from 1998. The car will be the spiritual descendant of the famous Mark II series of cars which helped to establish Jaguar around the world in the 1960s. It will also be the first time Jaguar has had a three-model range — comprising the X200, XJ6 saloons, and the new XK8 sports car which is launched later this year — since 1970, when the business was owned by British Leyland.

Jaguar is developing an integrated factory next to its paint plant at Castle Bromwich in Birmingham for the X200. In addition to 1,300 new jobs at Castle Bromwich, the investment will secure around 3,000 jobs at Ford plants at Bridgend in Wales and Halewood on Merseyside which will be key suppliers.

The European Commission had objected to £40 million of the grant which was to come from the Government's regional selective assistance budget, ruling that the aid would have to be substantially cut. The balance of grants package comes in the form of site and land reclamation by English Partnerships, environmental work and training provided by local agencies.

Mr Lang insisted that the cash would establish Jaguar as a major volume producer, raising output from between 35,000 to 40,000 cars a year to 80,000 in 1998 and nearer 100,000 by the end of the century.

Nick Scheele, Jaguar's chairman and chief executive, said: "This is excellent news for Jaguar's employees, customers, dealers, suppliers and the West Midlands economy."

Pilkington, page 27



Leverton: "potential"

Pilkington, page 27

Pilkington cuts 1,900 workers

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

PILKINGTON, the glassmaker, yesterday revealed it was cutting 1,900 jobs worldwide and would take a £155 million exceptional charge in this year's accounts for restructuring.

The company also upset the City by giving warning that full-year profits, excluding exceptional, would be "marginally" below expectations for the year to March 31. The shares fell 8.5p to close at 189p at 198p to the news, which closely follows a £300 million rights issue in November to cover acquisitions.

But the company promised a rapid pay-back from its cost-cutting measures which will take place over the next three years, and said full benefits would appear from 1998. Roger Leverton, chief executive, said: "The work we have done to date on benchmarking and cost cutting has demonstrated the continuing potential within the group to improve efficiencies and yields in all our activities."

The £155 million charge includes an asset write-down of £85 million and £70 million in costs from the restructuring of operations in Europe and the US. In Europe the company will consolidate operations after

the £120 million purchase of the Italian STIV last November. In the US Pilkington said it would rationalise its glass plants focusing on the production of laminated, tempered and encapsulated glass. The company will also cut costs at its German building products arm after a difficult trading year. Pilkington said the plan is to be self-financing in cash terms.

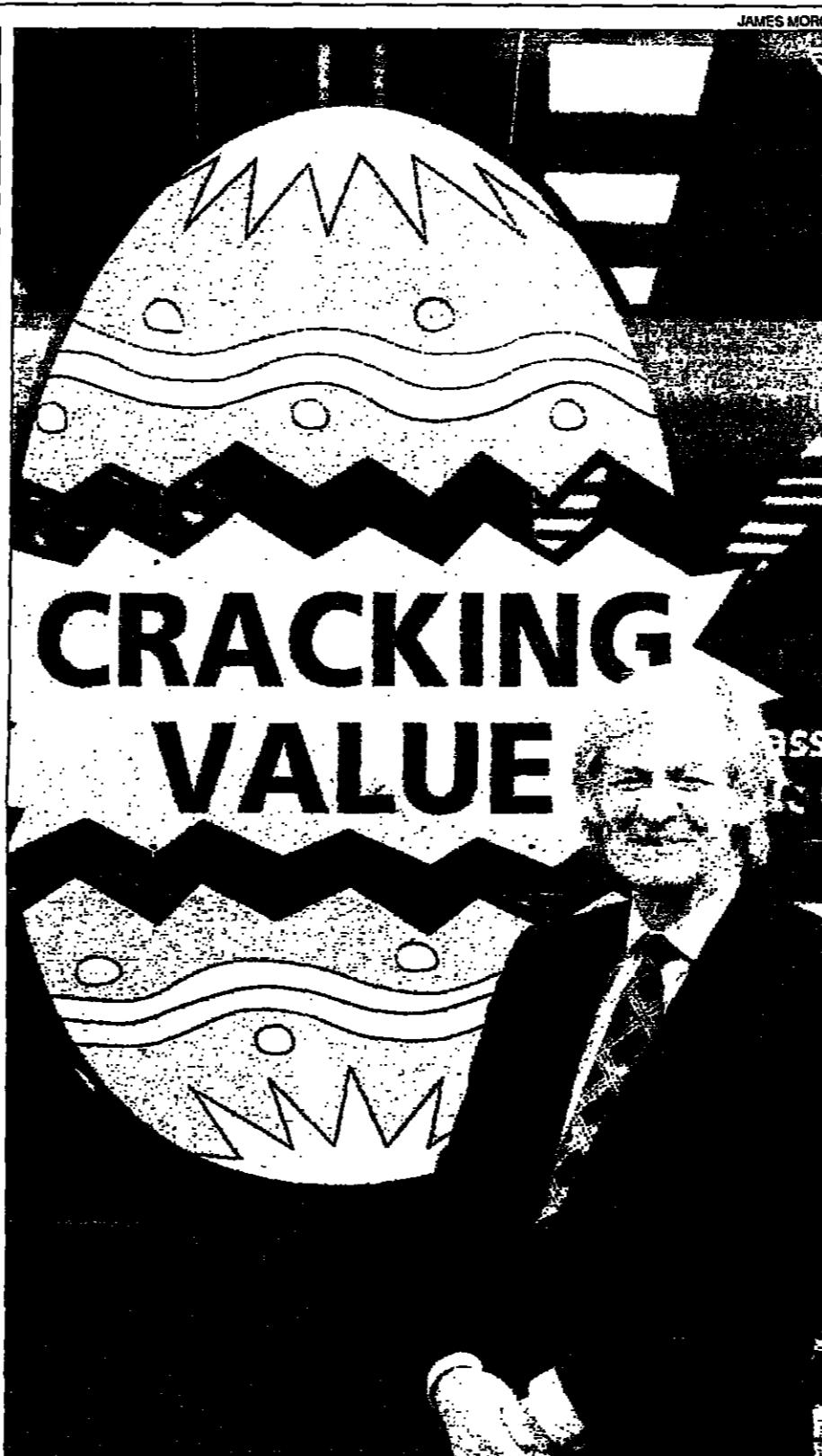
Job cuts are expected to take place across the businesses but Pilkington would not specify further because it is still involved in talks with unions. Mr Leverton said cuts among the 3,500 British staff would be limited and achieved by natural wastage over three years.

Pilkington, page 27

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Pilkington, page 27



Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy saw Kingfisher, the Woolworths group, lift profits to £287 million

By SARAH BAGNALL

KINGFISHER, the Woolworths group, yesterday reported a sharp fall in profits from its B&Q subsidiary, but denied that the chain's chief executive had come close to leaving because of a clash of views over the way forward for the do-it-yourself business.

B&Q, the market leader, saw profits drop by a third to £55.4 million, in the 53 weeks to February 3. However, the decline was more than offset by improved profits from all the group's other operations.

Overall, Kingfisher lifted underlying pre-tax profits 2 per cent, to £287.2 million, on

sales up 8 per cent, to £5.3 billion. The results beat market forecasts, which ranged from £244 million to £282 million, helping to lift the shares 21p, to 554p.

Including one-off costs, pre-tax profits rose 27.6 per cent, to £31.7 million.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, said: "The result at B&Q was disappointing partly because the DIY market is at its worst for five years." To try to improve the 279-strong chain's fortunes, Kingfisher has cut its store opening programme for the warehouse format from nine to four in the current year. It has also found

scope for £20 million of efficiency gains in B&Q.

Referring to speculation that Jim Hodgkinson, head of B&Q, was about to go because of differences of opinion, Sir Geoffrey said: "It was never an issue" and that the resulting plan of action was put to the board by Mr Hodgkinson.

The group's first-half underlying pre-tax profits fell by 12.8 per cent, but second-half profits rose by 8.7 per cent.

An 11.7p final dividend, due on July 2, makes 16.2p, up from 15.2p. Earnings per share rose by 32.8 per cent, to 34.4p.

Tempus, page 28

BICC and Trafalgar to operate motorway

By ROSS TIEMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BICC and Trafalgar House have scooped a £200 million contract to build and operate a new motorway linking the M1 to the A1 north of Leeds. BICC, which did not pre-qualify, replaced Wimpey as Trafalgar's partner after Wimpey was acquired by Tarmac in an asset swap. The substitution was approved by the Government on the advice of Price Waterhouse, its consultant on the Private Finance Initiative.

The consortium will design, build, finance and operate the link, the second major road scheme agreed under the PFI. The project involves widening the M62 to four lanes, building a motorway with three lanes in either direction between the M1 at Belle Isle and the A1 at Hook Moor, and widening part of the M1 to five lanes.

To fund construction and operation, the contractors have arranged up to £300 million of finance. Some £15 million will be provided by the two partners as equity. A further £175 million of senior debt will be provided by a panel of six banks, and the European Investment Bank will lend £90 million.

The Highways Agency declined to comment on the outcome of the competition, but an announcement is imminent. Construction work will be undertaken by Balfour Beatty, a BICC subsidiary, and Trafalgar.

The deal opens a new alliance between the two groups. BICC is in a consortium called Connect with Philip Holman, the German contractor, Bank of America and WS Atkins, the consultant, to bid for two projects in the second round of Highways Agency road tenders.

ALAIN SOULAS, chief executive of Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper group, is to leave by mutual consent with a total compensation package expected to top £1 million. (George Sivell writes).

Compensation negotiations by M Soulard will centre on a two-year contract, an annual salary in the last published annual report of £370,000 and options worth about £400,000 if exercised at yesterday's share price of 204p, up 6p.

M Soulard seems to have fallen victim to a strategic review of the group's problems announced along with disappointing results for 1995 three weeks ago. Pre-tax profits dived from £217 million to £72 million.

Arjo has appointed Philippe Beylier as group managing director. He is currently responsible for the company's merchanting division and takes up his new responsibility with immediate effect.

Labour wants annual reports on training

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH companies will have to include details of their training performance in their annual reports if Labour comes to power, according to new proposals to be announced today.

Labour believes that the move, part of its plans for training set out in the document *The Skills Revolution — Preparing Britain for the 21st Century*, will increase the provision of training by placing companies under public scrutiny.

The move borrows a technique proposed for board

Skills agenda, page 29

ARRIVE FEELING EVERY HURDLE YOU HAVE ON PAGE ISN'T GOING TO BE

When you fly Delta nothing should get in the way of you relaxing. Our flight attendants recognise whether to leave you alone, to let you sleep or to make time for a friendly chat. That's why every passenger who gets off any of the 500 flights to our home town of Atlanta, the venue of the 1996 Olympics, arrives feeling like they can take on the world. For flight or ticket information call 0800 414 767. THE OFFICIAL AIRLINE OF THE BRITISH OLYMPIC TEAM.

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Dual stock auctions to help sell £32bn gilts

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

THE Government announced yesterday that it estimates it will need to sell £32.6 billion of gilts during the coming financial year and unveiled plans for three new dual stock auctions.

The figure for estimated gilt sales is so high because of a large number of gilt redemptions that have to be refinanced. These are expected to total £11.5 billion, compared with £4.1 billion.

The new dual stock auctions will, for example, mean that the Bank of England could auction one stock on a Tuesday and another one on Thursday. The aim is to reduce the size of individual auctions and enable the authorities to fund more evenly across maturity bands. In the next financial year, there will be three dual auctions and eight traditional single stock auctions.

The Government also confirmed yesterday that it will not hold auctions for index-linked gilts which will continue to be sold through taps.

The gilt market finished a touch lower yesterday, partly because the Government's *Debt Management Report* focused attention on the large amount of stock that has to be absorbed next year. Earlier, however, a £3 billion auction of five-year gilts was more than two-and-a-half times subscribed. This far better than the market had expected.



Graham Howe, left, finance director, and Hans Snook were delighted to talk about the success of Orange's flotation yesterday

Lang outlines updated law to tackle cartels

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a new law to prohibit cartels, anti-competitive agreements between companies and other market-rigging behaviour have been tabled by the Government.

The Office of Fair Trading will be given new powers to enter premises and seize or copy documents when searching for evidence of market-rigging. If a Green Paper unveiled by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, is implemented, the OFT would also be empowered to make prohibition orders, banning apparently anti-competitive practices until an investigation into them was completed.

The proposals, awaited since

reforms were promised in 1989, mark a fundamental shift to bring UK competition law closer into line with practice in continental Europe.

John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, welcomed the proposals enthusiastically and called for them to be implemented "as soon as possible". He said: "Strengthening the investigatory powers of the Director-General of Fair Trading to uncover cartels and deal with abuse of market power is to be welcomed. It is overdue."

Mr Lang said he wanted to consult widely to achieve "a system that will bring benefits to business and consumers while at the same time not

imposing any unnecessary regulatory burdens".

The new law is expected to strengthen British competition law and bring it into line with Article 85 of the European Community treaty. Under the proposals, companies that are party to illegal agreements will be liable to fines of up to 10 per cent of their UK turnover. Directors who negotiate or operate prohibited agreements could face fines of up to £150,000 in the High Court.

The OFT, which has 420 staff and an annual budget of £19.4 million, expects to reinforce its 60-strong investigations department if the proposals become law.

The new law is expected to

Investors get the taste for Orange

BY ERIC REGULY

SHARES in Orange, the third-largest mobile phone company, opened for trading yesterday at 245p, well above their issue price of 205p, and closed at 257p, with 69 million shares changing hands.

Hans Snook, Orange's managing director, said in hindsight the company could have priced the shares higher, but was happy with the price level chosen. The indicated price range was 175p to 205p and strong demand (the issue was ten times oversubscribed) ensured that few investor applications came in below 205p.

He said: "The important thing for us was not ultimately to squeeze every tiny bit that we could out of this thing. We are after all, a company that is not making money."

Orange has about 450,000 customers, against 379,000 at the end of December. It is not expected to post operating profits before 1997. Its pre-tax loss in 1995 was £14.5 million.

The offer price valued Orange at £2.45 billion and raised £624 million before the over-allotment of 32.5 million shares or 10 per cent of the total offering of 325 million shares. Of the total, some 26 million shares went to 35,000 individual investors in Britain.

Hutchinson Whampoa, the Hong Kong group that launched Orange in 1994, now has a stake of almost 50 per cent, down from 68 per cent, while British Aerospace's stake fell from 32 per cent to about 22 per cent. The success of the flotation helped to boost BAe shares by 15p to 868p.

Orange plans to use the funds raised to pay off shareholder debt and expand its network. It is aiming for 95 per cent coverage by the end of next year, up from 85 per cent at the end of 1995.

Barclays cuts sum for pension fund

BARCLAYS BANK is to cut its contribution to its main UK pension fund, the Barclays 1964 Fund, by two thirds, or £50 million, for the next three years after an actuarial valuation showed it in surplus. Bifu, the banking union, condemned the move as "immoral". Rob MacGregor of Bifu, said: "We want that money spent on the lowest income pensioners."

The bank is cutting contributions from £75 million to £25 million, or from the equivalent of 7.5 per cent of salary to 2.5 per cent. A three-year valuation last year put the fund value at sufficient to cover 125 per cent of accrued benefits. Barclays said: "This does not affect the staff, but will cost the group less."

Mid Kent ready to fight

MID KENT, the water company, may make a legal challenge to a possible bid by two French companies. Mid Kent says that the bid, which needs Monopolies and Mergers Commission approval to proceed, lies in the face of a 1991 MMC ruling that General Utilities must limit its Mid Kent stake to 19.5 per cent. General Utilities, UK arm of Générale des Eaux, the French utilities giant, has proposed a bid for Mid Kent with Saur, another French company. Both own part or all of two of Mid Kent's water company neighbours. Pennington, page 27

Aegis stake for sale

OMNICON, the US advertising group, proposes to sell its 9.1 per cent interest in Aegis Group, the British advertising and media planning company. Omnicron will also dispose of its 50 per cent Aegis warrants, for which Aegis is to seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange. Omnicron acquired the shares and warrants when Aegis refinanced in 1993. Yesterday Aegis reported a rise in 1995 pre-tax profits to £33.6 million from £20.1 million in 1994. Earnings were 2.6p a share (1.4p). Dividend payments will resume this year. Pennington, page 27

Churchill buys Pet Plan

CHURCHILL is to announce its acquisition of Pet Plan, the animal insurance company, within weeks. John O'Rearke, its deputy managing director, said yesterday. The high street insurer, part of Winterthur, the Swiss insurer, said there was a lot of scope to develop Pet Plan because a large proportion of the pet-owning public had never bought cover for their animals. Mr O'Rearke said: "There is an opportunity to broaden the customer base in a market which is currently worth £100 million."

Industry spending falls

CAPITAL spending by manufacturing industries in the fourth quarter was down 5 per cent on the previous quarter and was virtually the same as a year ago, according to revised figures from the Central Statistical Office. For the year as a whole, capital spending increased 8 per cent compared with the figure in 1994. Total capital spending by all industries was 1 per cent higher than in both the previous quarter and a year ago. Spending in 1995 was virtually unchanged from the previous year.

Independent record

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS, the Irish media group, made record profits of £150 million in 1995 (£137.7 million). Operating profits increased to £449 million (£405 million). The rise was chiefly because of the inclusion of Independent Newspaper Holdings, the South African subsidiary, which recently reported a 41 per cent profit increase. The total dividend rises to 10p (10.5p) with a final 16.5p. Earnings rose to £25.16p (£20.2p). IN has a 43.3 per cent interest in Newspaper Publishing, which publishes the UK title *The Independent*.

Tibbett & Britten falls

PRE-TAX PROFITS of Tibbett & Britten, the logistics and supply chain management group, fell sharply to £12.1 million in 1995, from £26.9 million in 1994, in spite of a 41 per cent advance in turnover, to £652.9 million, from £464 million. The results were adversely affected by a downturn in Axial UK, the automotive logistics subsidiary. Earnings per share fell to 18.7p, from 42.8p. However, the total dividend is maintained at 16.2p, with an unchanged 11.2p final, which helped the shares to recover 82p to 50.5p yesterday.

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□ Pilkington's provision of excuses □ Ford backs Britain at a price □ Cheap insurance in a perfect world

□ SLIP down the rabbit hole, trip through the looking glass, Pilkington's finest, of course, and welcome to the Alice-in-Wonderland world of modern company accounts. A newborn babe or a casual onlooker might assume that the numbers companies are required to report by law have some bearing on events in the real world. The City, of course, knows better.

Accounting standards, rather like that age-old struggle between builders of warships and those making the guns that sink them, are essentially a race between one gang that provides the armour by tightening up the rules and another looking to blow loopholes in them.

The latest round in that struggle is over one-off provisions against profits. These are designed to cope with those little accidents — factories razed to the ground by fire, earthquake or rabid wildebeest, say — that are unpredictable and should therefore be separated from "proper" profits. We made this much, but except for those wildebeest, we would have made this much, so please, if you would, focus on the second figure.

How nice to be able to remove £X million from this year's profits, blaming those wildebeest rather than the management, and then take the credit for using them to inflate next year's profits.

PETER JANSEN, chief executive at Caradon, said 1995 had been "horrendous" and the worst year of recession for the building products' group.

He said: "Our main markets of North America, UK and Germany behaved miserably. In the first half, we saw a sharp decline in the US, followed in the second half by very sharp declines in the UK and Germany. It is very unusual for all these markets to give problems at the same time."

The downturn resulted in a sharp fall in pre-tax profits from £201.2 million to £114.3 million in the year to December 31. The

underlying decline was exacerbated by £37.3 million of exceptional charges, the bulk of which had been flagged at the interim stage in September. Part of the charge was to cover the cost of 1,600 job cuts previously announced.

In January it emerged that the Stock Exchange had passed to the Department of Trade and Industry the results of its investigation into share dealings ahead of the September profit warning. Mr Jansen said the company had not been contacted by the DTI.

The sharp drop in profits was on the back of a small rise

in sales from £2 billion to £2.1 billion. Acquisitions contributed £150.8 million to sales and £12 million to pre-exceptional operating profits.

Mr Jansen said action was taken as soon as the downturns in the major markets had been identified. "We have accelerated our cost reduction programme, which will be largely completed by the end of the first quarter of 1996," he said. The programme is expected to reap cost benefits of about £25 million in addition to the £25 million cost savings already achieved last year.

All but one of the group's

accounting — you pour the bath as deep as you can, and then run off the water later to the depth needed. For Pilkington, which was being unhelpful about the actual numbers yesterday, it has two advantages. Big provisions allow pretty well any dividend to be paid, without reference to niceies such as whether it is covered by real earnings.

Second, the exceptions, covering a three-year programme, come in just months before action from the ASB to tighten the accounting rules even further — action that might make such provisions rather less acceptable in the future.

Jaguar pounces on state subsidy

□ RELIEF and joy abound among the ragged-trousered engineers of Coventry and the barefooted teenagers of Castle Bromwich. The grateful indigents of the English Midlands will doubtless wave multi-starred European Union flags gratefully at any passing Volkswagen or Renault in case they should



contain one of those stern but fair officials from Brussels. At last, these officials have graciously permitted the British Government to hand £40 million smackers, as well as £40 million in kind, to Ford. This aid succeeded in persuading America's number two auto group to build its new small Jaguar car in our starving regional outpost.

Otherwise, so it is said, Ford might well have made the highly traditional, hand-crafted Olde-English Jaguar in Hicksville, Michigan, the Philippines or Sri Lanka. You might think that would not have been the ideal marketing ploy if the plan was to challenge the BMW 5 series with classic British craftsmanship. But Ford certainly convinced

those hard-headed types at the DTI that it was serious and that this was the deal.

Who is quibbling, in any case? State aid to Jaguar is plainly a quite different proposition from foreign state aid for Air France, Iberian Airways or Groupe Bull. To start with, they are state-controlled. Jaguar only used to be. The Government then acted smartly to allow a Ford takeover, thinking this would stop Jaguar sponging off the taxpayers.

Britain's £80 million boost for Jaguar output was also aimed at add new competition for other European car producers, whereas continental state aid for airlines was intended to help close part of the industry's excess capacity. Clearly, the British aid is more creative and since competition is good, it must be good for our continental competitors.

The taxpayers' bill for the belated Jaguar 2.4 replacement is also smaller: comfortably under £100 million compared with the billions pumped into foreign airlines. That is a small price, given that subsidy is still the way of the big-project world. Taxpayers should rejoice too and

trust that Ford markets this exciting new car so well that no one could conceive of Jaguars being made anywhere else.

Insurers take cover in claim-free zone

□ THE rewards for a blameless existence are no longer confined to the afterlife — just promise to walk a safe but dull path in the here-and-now. If you are in a part of the country that has never suffered from floods or subsidence, if you have never been burgled, have driven for 20 years without a scratch on your car, if you live as far as possible from a major city, in short, if you are never likely to make a claim, then, boy, do we have an insurance policy for you.

If, like the rest of us, you have suffered the odd prang, had your video recorder stolen and lost your luggage at a foreign airport, the response is less friendly.

Insurers make much of their ability to pinpoint risk exactly. Why, they ask, should the careful driver in a provincial town be made to pay for the excesses of

the boy racer in the city? But the point of insurance is that risk is pooled. If the industry's argument was taken to its logical conclusion, each of us would be assessed individually.

The possibility of genetic testing brings that logical conclusion much nearer. Swiss Re has drawn back, but some insurers in the United States already require customers to take tests before they buy life assurance. Penalising all but the physically and mentally perfect raises serious moral questions. By contrast, no one should be forced to insure the un-insurable. But most of us fall somewhere between the two.

Change of course

□ THERE'S a bit of leakage in the pipes in Mid Kent. The small water company of the same name was five years ago partially sealed against any intrusion from the French Générale des Eaux. The MMC told General Utilities, its UK arm, to cut its stake in Mid Kent to 19.5 per cent and not to team up with others to take that holding higher. But last December, GU chose to gang up with SAUR, another French concern, to propose a bid for Mid Kent. So what has changed in five years? We may soon learn from the courts whether undertakings made to the MMC really do hold water.

Caradon's profits slump after 'horrendous' 1995

BY SARAH BAGNALL

Apple set for \$700m first-quarter loss

BY RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

APPLE COMPUTER expects to incur a \$700 million loss in the first quarter, although its chairman said the company's problems were "fixable". As the shares plunged to a low of \$23.8, against more than \$50 last summer, Gilbert Amelio, the new chairman, gave a gloomy outlook for the next few months, with revenues and shipments substantially below last year's levels, and millions of dollars of old inventory left unsold.

"I'm confident at this point that I know what the problems are and that they are fixable," said Mr Amelio. Apple would unveil its plans for recovery by early May, he added. The latest loss is a further blow to investor confidence in Apple, which suspended the previous quarter's dividend.

million loss for the final quarter of last year, Wall Street had not expected such a large deficit. The company said that it was due to inventory write-downs and restructuring charges, which include axing about 1,300 employees earlier this year.

"I'm confident at this point that I know what the problems are and that they are fixable," said Mr Amelio. Apple would unveil its plans for recovery by early May, he added. The latest loss is a further blow to investor confidence in Apple, which suspended the previous quarter's dividend.

Barratt to build £90m land fund

BY CARL MORTISHED

BARRATT Developments, the housebuilder, is raising £90 million through a rights issue to fund an increase in its land bank, aimed at raising output from 7,000 homes a year to 11,000 in the next three years.

Barratt is offering one new share for every four held at 20p each in its first cash call since 1982. Two new divisions will be established, one in Central London, another in the Thames Valley.

Announcing a 19 per cent increase in half-year profits to £19.1 million before tax, Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman, said that the company would continue to increase market share even in the absence of a turnaround in the housing

market. He reported net reservations up 10.5 per cent in revenue terms. Sir Lawrie, scornful of suggestions that Barratt would use the funds to takeover other housebuilders, said: "We will look at them as a route to buy land but we won't pay a premium to anyone. You should get a discount for buying in bulk."

The company sold 3,002 houses in the half year to December, 12 per cent up on the previous year, at an average price of £81,600 and increase its land bank to 18,991 units. The interim dividend of 2.75p, up 10 per cent and covered 2.5 times by earnings.

Tempus, page 28

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Ladbroke shares buoyed by persistent bid talk

TALK of a bid for Ladbroke, the struggling hotel and betting group, refuses to go away. The shares put in a late spurt to finish 2p dearer at 189p as almost three million changed hands. Once again, they are perched a shade below their high for the past year, with talk of an imminent bid still doing the rounds in the Square Mile.

This latest burst of speculative buying coincides with comments from Steve Bollenbach, head of the Hilton Corporation, which owns the Hilton chain of hotels in the US. He wants the two Hilton chains merged under one roof. Ladbroke owns all the Hilton Hotels outside the US.

City speculators fear that if a bid for Ladbroke is not forthcoming soon, a major correction in the share price is on the cards. At these levels, Ladbroke is capitalised at £2.1 billion.

The rest of the equity market found the going tough. Prices were squeezed higher, but genuine retail demand was thin. Turnover fell just short of a billion shares, having been artificially bolstered by special situations.

The FTSE 100 index finished 11.5 higher at 3,672.4, having been almost 16 points higher before the start of trading on Wall Street.

Grey-market dealings in Orange, the mobile phone operator, got off to a flying start, as expected. Offered at 20p, the top end of the range, the shares started life at 24p. After briefly touching 24.4p, they ended at 23.7p, a premium of 3.2p. Official trading starts on Tuesday.

Orange was floated off by its joint owners, British Aerospace, up 13p to 88p, and Hutchison Whampoa, of Hong Kong, and is now valued at £2.5 billion.

Much of yesterday's demand stemmed from big institutions, including index-tracking funds looking to steal a march before the group is eventually admitted to the index. By the close of business, a total of 68.7 million shares had changed hands.

The demand for Orange took some of the shine off Vodafone, with the price losing 3.2p to 24.4p as 7.7 million shares changed hands. Enterprise Oil responded to a strong oil price with a rise of 19p to 44.2p on turnover of two million shares. The cold winter in Europe and increased tension in the Middle East has



David Yeomans, chairman of TLS, with Peter Roberts, chief executive, and Peter Busby, finance director

lifted the price of oil to about \$22 a barrel. Heavy turnover was also recorded in Iceland, the frozen food retailer, after it announced details of its share buy-back programme. The group bought back a total of 27 million shares at 15p in a move designed to boost earnings a share. This helped to boost turnover by the close to 55 million shares.

Barratt Developments fell 7p to 232p after asking shareholders to stump up an extra £90 million to fund opportuni-

confident about prospects in the building industry. Higgs & Hill reported a drop in pre-tax profits from £1.4 million to £72,000 last year. The figure was struck after a write-off of £3.5 million relating to a contract with Guys Hospital. The shares slipped 2p to 88p.

Pilkington, Britain's biggest glazier, fell 8p to 198.2p after warning of provisions, totalling £155 million relating to the restructuring of its US automotive glass and German building products business. Almost 2,000 jobs are expected to be shed. The group also warned that trading conditions have become more difficult. Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, slashed its pre-tax profits forecast for the year to March 31 by 10 million to £208 million.

A warning of a sharp fall in

profits during the first half left **Bulldog** 8p down at 96p. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting that continuing problems with the refrigeration operations would result in it making a loss.

Brokers gave a warm reception to full-year figures from **Kingfisher**, where pre-tax profits came in at the top end of expectations in spite of another poor performance from its B&Q chain. The price finished up 2p at 554p.

Sharp falls in profitability

left **Bowthorpe** 10p down at 420p but failed to depress **Caradon**, up 1p at 204p, and **Cruden**, 1p better at 326p.

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7p to 232p after asking share-

holders to stump up an extra

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ties that the present management could obtain better returns on the business. But the market is waiting for **Rentokil** to raise its offer to around 215p a share, which may be enough to guarantee success. **Rentokil** rose 2p to 355p.

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DIARYWin some,
lose some

JAGUAR will go to Birmingham, thanks to an agreement reached by the Department of Trade and Industry and the European Commission yesterday, but the real deal was struck in the privacy of a box at Murrayfield at the beginning of March. When Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and fellow-scout Alex Troutman, president of Ford Jaguar, watched their beloved rusty team lose to England, the decision to take 1,300 jobs and a £400 million investment to Birmingham was secured. It was as the two men communicated over Scotland's defeat that they sealed Ford's commitment to make Jaguars in Britain, in spite of the European Commission's shilly-shallying over its £80 million aid package.

Pot du jour

ONLY foolhardy foodies would take the advice of the new *Egon Ronay's Guide 1996 Oriental Restaurants*, which singles out British Beef Musumman as this year's winning dish. A panel of judges from Egon Ronay and the Meat & Livestock Commission dived head first for the dish of thinly sliced beef in a peanut butter curry, which was prepared in Yum Yum, the Thai restaurant, by Oriental Chef of the Year Atique Choudry. The panel's decision was made last autumn.



JAMES CAPEL analysts are clearly great beef eaters. The winners in this fortnight's stock selection, paraded in its fortnightly newsletter, include *Harrison's & Crosfield*, which has exposure to animal feeds and Northern Foods, which handles milk and meat products. Then there's *TGN*, which has links with asbestos, and the financial company with the unfortunate name of *Cattle's*.

Smoke alarm

IN THESE health conscious days, smoking has become a minority habit for all but a handful of public figures. The cigar-smoking Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is one notable exception as is Bank Governor Eddie George. Now steady Eddie, a seasoned cigarette smoker, is getting a soul mate when lawyer Tricia Howse, assistant director of the Serious Fraud Office, takes her highly rated fraudbusting skills to the Bank's prosecutions department.

Self service

GARDNER Merchant, the UK's largest caterer, which packs 3,000 business-size lunch boxes for the Institute of Directors conference at the Royal Albert Hall every year, is now assembling buffet-size boxes for ravenous theatregoers. Since the introduction of eat-in-the-seat hampers went down so well with the audience at *Passion* in the Queens Theatre last night, Stoll Moss, the West End theatre group, hopes to take its idea to the English National Opera. The grub, including canapés, smoked salmon sandwiches and truffles, costs £12.50 with champagne or £20 with champagne, and can be ordered with your tickets.

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

Hong Kong becomes a magnet for foreign cash

Philip
Bowring on
British
pension fund
investment
in the colony

It's one of those items that really belongs in *Ripley's Believe It Not*. Whether future British retirees still smarting from the Robert Maxwell episode would be amused by it is debatable. But it is a fact that British pension funds have almost as much money invested in the tiny Hong Kong stock market as in the whole of the US. Indeed, the figure probably rose because of the frenzied foreign buying of Hong Kong shares in the first weeks of this year.

Peking's threats against Hong Kong's constitutional arrangements and Taiwan have underlined the political dangers to an economy that depends so much on international confidence and China's relations with the West rather than on what it produces.

Forgetting politics, Hong Kong is ludicrously over-weighted. According to figures on UK pension fund asset allocation, these funds in the last quarter of 1995 had 5.8 per cent of their total assets invested in the markets grouped under the heading "Pacific Rim excluding Japan", an increase from 4.8 per cent a year earlier. By contrast, just 2.9 per cent were

asset-price inflation occasioned by years of negative real interest rates that have only recently ended. They may also have noticed that over the years asset-price inflation has been helped along by a weak currency. The Hong Kong dollar has fallen 50 per cent against sterling.

So why should fund managers prefer these stocks to US markets with their vast array of leading-edge global firms, high-tech leaders, and a huge domestic market for everyone or to Asian countries that have better economic growth records and prospects? There is a certain amount of self-fulfilling prophecy in the managers' behaviour in a relatively small market such as Hong Kong. A rising market attracts more

funds and justifies the original position. But with foreign institutions taking a larger and larger share of the Hong Kong market, the medium-term dangers of foreign money? In the short term, foreign fund managers' bullish attitudes to Hong Kong contrast with the wariness of local investors facing an economic slowdown, the uncertainties of 1997, and regional tensions. Recently, Hong Kong companies have been able to get away with huge share placements to foreign institutions that would have sent shudders through the market if offered as rights to the capitalist world's premier market. The two have a combined GDP of about one 40th of that of the US.

This bizarre fact poses questions about the judgment of highly paid management groups. Just why is Hong Kong such a magnet for foreign money? In the short term, foreign fund managers' bullish attitudes to Hong Kong contrast with the wariness of local investors facing an economic slowdown, the uncertainties of 1997, and regional tensions. Recently, Hong Kong companies have been able to get away with huge share placements to foreign institutions that would have sent shudders through the market if offered as rights to the capitalist world's premier market. The two have a combined GDP of about one 40th of that of the US.

On a longer view, Hong Kong companies have performed well in terms of earnings growth. But presumably the fund managers have some inkling of the fact that most major Hong Kong companies owe their high levels profitability to the oligarchical arrangements that prevail in Hong Kong's property, banking and utility sectors and to

will give is that Hong Kong is an open and liquid market. But it is not bigger than Taiwan. True, it is more open to foreigners, but Singapore attracts much investment in spite of restrictions on foreign ownership of top companies that have led to foreign institutions paying huge premiums for a presence.

Pension funds, one might suppose, were investing for the long term not for fast in-and-out profit, for the benefit of their beneficiaries rather than the brokers. Other economies have infinitely better claims to being the cutting edge of the new Asia. Hong Kong is a narrowly focused market in a mature economy. It shares with Malaysia and Singapore (thanks to the foreigners) a market capitalisation to GDP ratio of well over 200 per cent — far higher than found elsewhere in the world. Unlike

Cultural factors are strongly in evidence too. Hong Kong has all the leading Anglo (Teutonic)-American firms of brokers and fund managers who like to deal with the familiar — that is each other. They are the ones who give Hong Kong blue-chips liquidity. Even without (or because of) a lack of control on kick-

BUSINESS LETTERS

Return to apprenticeships needed

From Mr Thomas P. Hartley

Sir, Today's business section contains a report, 'Bosses worried over education of job applicants', March 25. On the IoD's study regarding the failure of the education system to provide suitable candidates for industrial training, and on the facing page, a report 'Too few firms have a training budget' on research which suggests a dearth of training places for those who do qualify.'

Both reports make sad reading. It is time for a sense of urgency to be injected into both education and vocational training. Why not a return to the rigours of a formal system of apprentice training which

From Mr A. J. F. Hill

Sir, It isn't only the Lloyd's names who are displeased by the recent settlement proposals. There are now about 3,200 executors who are personally liable for the deceased names' debts.

Some of them, such as myself, act for an estate that is not protected by estate plan protection. For us, a settle-

Executors liable for dead names' debts

ment that promises 'finality' — but which cannot deliver FINALITY (because Equitas is so open-ended) is worse than useless.

Lloyd's has made absolutely no attempt to inform or advise executors on how to proceed — we are not allowed into

The cure for telecommunication ills

From Mr Bill Dixon

Sir, The UK telecommunications industry is in trouble. Twelve years of tinkering with competition at the boundary level leaves BT with a dominant market share, reinforced by the control it exerts over its competitors as the main supplier of interconnect.

The price reductions achieved by regulation are nothing special for a high-tech business. Regulation is ever more interventionist and adversarial: BT cannot take ordinary management decisions about its products and prices, while competitors find it difficult to enter the market without the appropriate

dispensations from Ofel. Ofel itself cannot cope. In effect, telecommunications is being run by an overburdened government bureaucracy which tells the industry what to do. We are back to square one. Uncertainty and delay are damaging the confidence of new entrants and suppressing the development and adoption of new technology.

Britain's worldwide status as an innovator in telecommunications is fading fast.

The one sure-fire cure for all ills is to break up BT. Surely a formula can be arrived at which makes this acceptable to BT as well as to everyone else.

Yours faithfully,
BILL DIXON

Partner
Dixon, Goodwin & Co
Osbourne House
Beckets Wharf
Lower Teddington Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN HILL
Executor to K. Hill
8 Ebner Street
SW1

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FOR A BROCHURE

Labour sets the agenda for a skill revolution

Philip Bassett on the Opposition's controversial training plans

Today, the Labour party will say: 'We believe that government does have a responsibility to set the framework for a skills revolution, and to play a role in making that happen.' A Labour government will accept the responsibility which the Tories have shunned.'

Bold words from the Labour party's new policy proposals on training, to be unveiled today. It will set out key proposals on training which business leaders have been eager to hear.

But some traditional Labour supporters, trade union leaders, for instance, see the final, formal abandonment of a commitment to a training levy on employers who fail to train, as yet another retrograde step by new Labour. John Edmonds of the GMB general union views the move away from the five guaranteed days training a year in the document *The Skills Revolution — Preparing Britain for the 21st Century*, as a step in the wrong direction, and is understood to have made his views known to party leaders at a private meeting. Careful work has gone on in recent weeks with such sceptics, but

People will look back on this as a turning point

plan — tax incentives for employees to take up part-time funded individuals learning accounts (ILAs), under which

people might be able to use smart cards to buy training, together with linking companies attaining the training-based Investors in People standard — has incentives, though critics argue it ducks the deadweight problem: how do you avoid giving free government money to companies which already train, or conversely why should such companies be penalised for training if a way is found of directing help only at firms which do not train.

Critics see the starting point as the need to scrap the stick of the training levy in favour of the carrot of individual and enterprise-level incentives.

Labour argues that current training provision in Britain is fragmented, unsuited to the modern labour market, and largely ignored. Key Labour figures have been made aware of research showing that four-fifths of companies in Britain do not train their workforces, not because they are opposed to training — but because they are operating in product

markets which simply do not need higher skill levels for profitability.

However, short-term that view is, it is dominant in Britain, especially among small firms. Britain's training problem does not lie with Marks & Spencer or ICI but with the vast swathe of companies who know they can get by without training.

A training levy was meant to address just this problem by forcing companies to train, or face a fine. But the levy did not achieve that. Labour says that the levy system reinforced rigid sectoral barriers, failed to cover many employment areas altogether, was highly bureaucratic and could not match the training performance of some of Britain's key competitors. But where sectors still want to keep their boards and their levies, such as engineering construction and building, Labour says the levy will remain in place — a point which the party will say demonstrates clearly its intention to work with industry and not against it. Labour's twofold

plan — tax incentives for employees to take up part-time funded individuals learning accounts (ILAs), under which

people might be able to use smart cards to buy training, together with linking companies attaining the training-based Investors in People standard — has incentives, though critics argue it ducks the deadweight problem: how do you avoid giving free government money to companies which already train, or conversely why should such companies be penalised for training if a way is found of directing help only at firms which do not train.

Critics also argue that the ILAs will be taken up mainly by sophisticated labour market participants.

For its part, the Labour leadership is convinced it has found a winner with the proposals, which it is convinced will find strong favour with both business and individuals. "In five years' time," says one key new Labour adviser, "people will look back on this as a turning point. That's how important to business, the economy and to individual people our training proposals will be."

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Industry groups fail on reform, says study

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government's attempt to reform Britain's patchwork of trade associations has so far largely failed, the first study of trade bodies in the UK suggests today. The study, by the head of a major association, says that the organisations must become more effective.

Michael Heseltine, while President of the Board of Trade, called for reform of Britain's many, often-competing trade associations, urging them to rationalise themselves, and warning them that the Government would deal with only the lead association in a sector to simplify its relations with industry. However, today's study suggests that little has so far come from Mr Heseltine's initiative — in particular, from the Government.

The study says: "There is, as yet, little evidence that the Department of Trade and Industry has sought to encourage rationalisation... The Department generally does not appear to have increased the extent to which it comments on the effectiveness of trade associations, still less has it dealt only with one trade association in a particular field."

The study, by Mark Boleat, Director-General of the Association of British Insurers, Britain's largest trade association in terms of subscription income, also questions the functions for trade associations suggested by Mr Heseltine — in particular, the idea of their working to increase international competitiveness, which, it says, is "irrelevant" for many smaller associations.

Although the study recognises the difficulty of measuring the effectiveness of such bodies, it says that further reforms are essential if they are to promote and represent British industry properly.

It says that there are now about 1,300 trade associations in Britain, with total subscription income of about £270 million a year. Thirteen each have income in excess of £3 million.

Mr Boleat reveals details of CBI membership levels, putting them at more than 250,000 public and private companies, and more than 200 trade associations, employers' bodies and other commercial organisations.

Mr Boleat urges trade associations to be fully engaged in the political process, and says: "Members should be kept fully informed about the current political and regulatory framework to ensure that policy views coming forward have not been developed in a vacuum. Many trade associations fall down at this hurdle."

□ *Trade Association Strategy and Management*, by Mark Boleat (Association of British Insurers, 51 Gresham Street, London EC2: £15)

SIB chief urges bank reforms

By ROBERT MILLER

THE threat posed to the international banking and monetary systems by failures such as those of Barings and Daiwa must be tackled by improved cross-border co-operation between supervisors, markets and the industry itself, the UK's most senior watchdog said yesterday.

Speaking at a conference in Tokyo, Sir Andrew Large, the chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, told delegates that banks and securities firms must be encouraged to develop better standards of practice in accounting and disclosure.

In future, such businesses should prepare their consolidated accounts in a common way and to internationally agreed accounting standards. Sir Andrew said.



Jim Rawson, left, with Paul Hazel, finance director, has seen profits decline at Epwin

Epwin dips as costs rise

TOUGH trading in the market for u-PVC windows and building products, together with a sharp rise in the cost of raw materials, reduced pre-tax profits at Epwin Group 18 per cent to £5.1 million (£6.2 million) in 1995. Earnings fell to 15.5p (18p) a share. A final dividend of 6p lifts the total to 8.9p. The shares rose 2p to 211p. Jim Rawson, chairman, said relative stability in raw material costs and selective price increases would help to improve margins.

Monument plans £50m return

By CARL MORTISHED

MONUMENT OIL & GAS, the exploration company with a large interest in the Liverpool Bay gas field, proposes to return £50 million of capital to shareholders. The payment to investors, amounting to 7.5p per share and equivalent to almost a third of the published net assets, will be made after the interim results in August.

At the same time, investors in Nirim Resources, Monument's 38 per cent sharehold-

er, will swap their shares for equivalent numbers of shares in Monument. The Nirim investors include Tony Craven Walker, founder and chief executive of Monument, and Groupe Bruxelles Lambert and Electra Investment Trust.

Monument has decided to shrink just as gas production starts in Liverpool Bay, a development which will substantially increase the cash flow of the oil company. Mr

Craven Walker said the change of capital structure would be accompanied by a shift in emphasis towards exploration with plans to spend £20 million per year.

Monument raised its net profits 61 per cent to £12 million last year. It is not paying a dividend but does not rule out future dividends or share repurchases.

Tempus, page 30

ACCOUNTANCY

A brief encounter with principles

Peter Holgate believes the ASB needs to highlight genuine and fundamental guidelines

TO BASE the development of accounting standards on a set of underlying principles seems an eminently sensible idea. At the end of the 1980s, it was widely agreed that the new standard-setter (the Accounting Standards Board, which came into being in 1990) should base its work on coherent principles, and thereby avoid the ad hoc, firefighting approach for which its predecessor had been criticised.

Through such small steps is the world improved — or so it seemed until recently. In late 1995 the ASB published for comment a draft of the entire Statement. The public furor that followed has unfortunately obscured some of the key issues, and the time is right to turn to those.

Despite some major concerns about the content of the Statement of principles in its current draft, we certainly back the ASB in developing one. There are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, a Statement of principles seems to be one of the best ways to foster international harmonisation: if the underlying principles are the same or similar, then there is good chance that the detailed rules and their application in practice should be likewise. Secondly, the existence of clear principles should mean that it is not nec-

essary to be too prescriptive in individual standards. But there are some concerns. The most basic question is: what are principles? In other words, what sort of content, and how much content, would we expect to find? Our observations in this regard are threefold.

First, at 132 pages, the Statement is too long. The Ten Commandments take less than a page, the Cadbury Code takes two pages and the Auditing Practices Board's recent "Auditors' Code" takes three.

Closer to home, the early accounting standard (SSAP 2) sets out the four fundamental concepts (going concern, accruals, consistency and prudence) in less than one page. The Companies Act sets out the requirement for accounts to give a true and fair view in the same space. This is not to argue that the Statement of principles should be less than two pages long; business life has moved on and there is a good case for more guidance. It is rather a case of finding a happy medium between two pages and 132.

Our second concern is about the type of content. Yes, there has been concern about whether certain proposed principles are the right ones. People have criticised the balance sheet approach, the em-



Peter Holgate says brevity is essential to setting standards

phasis on current value information and the so-called "recognition criteria" which could lead to more assets and liabilities on balance sheet.

Some of these proposed principles are radical and it is right that they are given a full debate at this stage. That debate is longer than this column and is currently taking place in comprehensive submission to the ASB. But

while genuine principles merit a proper debate, that does not mean the ASB is right in including in the draft some other ideas that are put forward as principles but are in reality the ASB's planned reforms for specific subjects.

Proposals on accounting for goodwill, the use of equity accounting and proportional consolidations, and the relative roles of the profit and loss

account and the total gains statement fall into this category.

They are implementation issues, not principles, and indeed some of them appeared last week in their rightful place — a financial reporting exposure draft. Fred II.

The third concern is where some of the fundamental concepts have gone. The Statement supports the idea of consistency but gives insufficient emphasis to the fundamental concepts of prudence, going concern and accruals, which, in our view should continue to be recognised as generally accepted principles of good accounting.

Even the concept of financial statements needing to give a "true and fair view" appears to be incidental to the Statement. This is so even though it is the overriding legal requirement relating to accounts and a considerable exposure. In our view it should remain at the core of UK accounting.

To summarise: principles are well worth developing and setting out publicly. The ASB should do so. But it should concentrate on genuine principles, select the most fundamental and set them out as briefly as possible.

Peter Holgate is accounting technical partner with Coopers & Lybrand and contributing editor of The Coopers & Lybrand Manual of Accounting published by Accountancy Books, £180, PO Box 620, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 2JX or telephone 01992 248008.

Not a good holiday read

IT is time for the captains of industry to tremble in their boots again. Terry Smith, the analyst who shattered the peace in 1992 by publishing a devastating critique of creative accounting, is at it again. In 1992 his book *Accounting for Growth*, subtitled "stripping the camouflage from company accounts", caused a sensation in the City. Many a chairman

roared in pain as Smith's system of marking each company down with a blob for every dubious accounting policy they used hit home. Last weekend he put the finishing touches to the manuscript in the latest issue of PW's staff newspaper warn everyone to be careful with business papers and laptops when travelling. "Audit and business advisory services people

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Laptop espionage

NOW it can be revealed. The partners who get ahead at Price Waterhouse can read upside down. A note on security in the latest issue of PW's staff newspaper warns everyone to be careful with business papers and laptops when travelling. "Audit and business

Biting words

IT was clear where the sympathies of John Roques, the Deloitte & Touche senior part-

ner, lay at last week's seminar on auditor liability. Not for nothing is he known as The Rottweiler. He introduced Professor Andrew Burrows of the Law Commission to make the case for not allowing accounting firms any reform of the laws on audit liability and said that afterwards his fellow partner, John Magill, would make some concluding comments. "Hopefully they will be derisory", he said.

ROBERT BRUCE

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Healthcall steps up investment level

HEALTHCALL GROUP, the healthcare services company, is accelerating investment in primary care centres, anticipating an increase in demand for its services from general practitioners. GPs have launched a public awareness campaign to curb public demand for their services and primary care centres are being offered as an alternative to a home visit.

Healthcall yesterday reported a 23 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.9 million in 1995, its first full year as a listed company, from £6.39 million in 1994. Proforma earnings rose 11 per cent to 9.2p a share. The total dividend is increased 10 per cent to 4.95p a share, with a 3.3p final due on May 14.

Builders look to 1997

THE output of the construction industry, which fell 1 per cent last year, is likely to bottom out this year and pick up in 1997, with recovery led by the private commercial and industrial sector and repair and maintenance work, according to Cambridge Econometrics. Lower interest rates and an increase in work from the Private Finance Initiative would help. Private work had the brightest growth prospects, fuelled partly by lottery funded projects, though industrial work was vulnerable to a sharper slowdown in European export markets.

Asda Property higher

AGAINST a background of generally falling property values, Asda Property Holdings, the investment company, achieved a modest 1 per cent increase in net asset value to 150p a share in 1995. Profits rose to a record £8.9 million before tax last year from £8.3 million, with net rental income advancing to £14.28 million from £12.8 million. Earnings were 6.5p a share, compared with 6.7p, although there was a 9 per cent rise in underlying earnings. The total dividend is 8 per cent higher at 2.6p a share, with a final 1.8p. The shares fell 3p to 139p.

TLS drives ahead

TLS, the supplier of rental vehicles which has 17 branches nationwide, saw profits rise sharply to £4.1 million before tax last year from £1.71 million in 1994. Earnings were 7.5p a share, compared with 3.6p. The total dividend rises to 2.7p a share from 1.5p, with a final 1.85p due on May 24. The company also said a conservative accounting policy on vehicle rebates resulted in a carry forward of deferred income into 1996 and 1997 of £4.8 million, compared with £2.6 million in 1995.

Sherwood rises to 17m

SHERWOOD GROUP, the garment and lace manufacturer, increased profits to £17.2 million before tax from £15.1 million in 1995, despite a 15 per cent decline in the contribution from the garment division as a result of weak consumer demand and the extended summer. Earnings rose to 8.9p a share from 7.9p. The total dividend is increased 12.5 per cent to 3.6p a share, with a final 2.3p, due on May 22. The company said sales outside Europe grew by 24 per cent.

Sunshine lifts Nichols

HOT summer weather helped J M Nichols, the producer of Vimto soft drink, to raise full-year profits by 6 per cent to £9.6 million, despite a 15 per cent decline in the contribution from the garment division as a result of weak consumer demand and the extended summer. Earnings rose to 8.9p a share from 7.9p. The total dividend is increased 12.5 per cent to 3.6p a share, with a final 2.3p, due on May 22. The company said sales outside Europe grew by 24 per cent.

Fairness issue must be on the agenda

THE English ICA issued an excellent summary of the arguments over professional liability last week. It called the discussion paper *Finding a Fair Solution*. And that would appear to be the real problem at the heart of all the arguments over finding a way of dealing with litigation, blame and liability among auditors. When you talk to the lawyers involved in what seems facetiously to be known as "reform" of the issue, you find that fairness is the last thing on the agenda. Indeed, the lawyers concerned would prefer it not to be on the agenda at all.

The issue for the profession is a simple one. If a company goes bust through fraud or the incompetence of its directors, everyone involved is, under the present law, jointly and severally liable. But shareholders and their lawyers know that there is no point in suing the directors for having left the company a shambles. There would not be enough small change left in the directors' pockets to provide restitution. So the auditors, as the only ones who legally have to be insured, are the only deep pockets into which the shareholders can dip. The problem then is blame. Sometimes the auditors are to blame as well as the directors, sometimes not.

The only constant is that the auditors get sued for the lot each time. This is what is unfair. A system of proportionate liability, where blame and liability are apportioned, would seem a fair reform.

Had the authors of the discussion paper been at a seminar on the topic organised by Deloitte & Touche the night before publication they would have realised quite how distant the concept of fairness is from the hearts and, more importantly, the minds, of the lawyers involved.

The main event was an address by Andrew Burrows, of the Law Commission, on his feasibility investigation of joint and several liability. This is the report that has deeply embarrassed the Department of Trade and Industry. Professor Burrows and his team came to the conclusion that there was no case to consider and, as there was therefore no point in making a full report, the feasibility study should be published. This the DTI did last month. It was then horrified at the outraged reaction. A damage-limitation exercise ensued. The DTI distanced itself from the report, emphasised that it was for consultation only, and that it certainly did not neces-

sarily agree with the report's conclusions. This last action is not a difficult one. Anyone with any knowledge of business life can see that the report's conclusions are at best theory and at worst nonsense. What has been difficult to understand is how such conclusions could have been reached. In every sophisticated business nation, the legal profession is moving towards some sort of proportionate liability. Australia and the US already have it.

But anyone present at the seminar now knows the answer to why the Burrows report came to its strange conclusion. Professor Burrows provided the key. And he hammered it home over and over. He is not prepared to allow the concept of justice to get in the way of a legal principle. "The Law Commission is entirely composed of lawyers", he said. "We see the world through the eyes of the lawyers."

We are not in the business of politically driven, pragmatic reform. If there is to be a solution, it must be politically driven and pragmatic." And as a lawyer he would wash his hands of anything so incorrect. Only the people he referred to as "policy-makers" could provide such an unprincipled thing as a solution.

He dismissed the reforms in the US securities law, which allow a limited form of proportionate liability, as "a politically-driven pragmatic approach". But for his mild-mannered delivery, you would not have been surprised if he had told us that the principle of proportionate liability was the work of the devil. He said that he was "extremely disappointed that proportionate liability is put across as so obvious a reform with only the lawyers standing obstinately in the way".

To their credit, many members of the audience, which was composed mostly of lawyers, said later they were deeply embarrassed by the evening. But at least everything is now clear. The commission was driven simply by the textbooks. Any idea that the concept of justice might influence its decisions was deemed to be dangerously pragmatic.

Everyone involved in the debate should empty their minds of anything the commission said. The DTI, to its credit, sees the report as only a starting point in the debate. Everyone involved should now take the idea of finding a fair solution as their guiding principle. It is certainly a fairer principle than anything the legal academics could come up with.

Shares fail to hold best levels

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES																				
566	570	Adnams	275	—	5.0	18.8	566	570	Brasserie	500	—	3.4	19.2	570	574	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
369	370	Bitter End	265	—	4.0	19.8	270	275	Caffers	280	—	5.6	17.5	270	275	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
249	250	Bam Small	115	—	2.0	24.5	211	212	General	211	—	5.1	15.3	211	212	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
249	250	Banana Republic	245	—	2.0	19.5	212	213	Charles Baker	212	—	3.7	14.9	212	213	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
217	218	Baptist (The)	345	—	2.1	15.5	213	214	Chase	213	—	3.7	11.2	213	214	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
710	711	Bass	235	—	2.1	25.2	214	215	Chase	214	—	3.7	14.7	214	215	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bassett's	235	—	2.1	25.2	215	216	Chesapeake	215	—	3.7	14.7	215	216	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
217	218	Bathurst (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	216	217	Chesapeake	216	—	3.7	14.7	216	217	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's	235	—	2.1	25.2	217	218	Chesapeake	217	—	3.7	14.7	217	218	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	218	219	Chesapeake	218	—	3.7	14.7	218	219	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	219	220	Chesapeake	219	—	3.7	14.7	219	220	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	220	221	Chesapeake	220	—	3.7	14.7	220	221	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	221	222	Chesapeake	221	—	3.7	14.7	221	222	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	222	223	Chesapeake	222	—	3.7	14.7	222	223	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	223	224	Chesapeake	223	—	3.7	14.7	223	224	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	224	225	Chesapeake	224	—	3.7	14.7	224	225	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	225	226	Chesapeake	225	—	3.7	14.7	225	226	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	226	227	Chesapeake	226	—	3.7	14.7	226	227	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
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127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	229	230	Chesapeake	229	—	3.7	14.7	229	230	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
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127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	232	233	Chesapeake	232	—	3.7	14.7	232	233	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	233	234	Chesapeake	233	—	3.7	14.7	233	234	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
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127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	239	240	Chesapeake	239	—	3.7	14.7	239	240	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	240	241	Chesapeake	240	—	3.7	14.7	240	241	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	241	242	Chesapeake	241	—	3.7	14.7	241	242	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	242	243	Chesapeake	242	—	3.7	14.7	242	243	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
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127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	248	249	Chesapeake	248	—	3.7	14.7	248	249	Chadwick	477	—	2.2	17.2
127	128	Bateman's (The)	235	—	2.1	25.2	249	250	Chesapeake	249	—</									





■ CINEMA

Could you write a screenplay with the impressive sweep of Orson Welles's classic *Citizen Kane*?



■ CINEMA

... or one to rival the intimacy and sophisticated wit of Woody Allen's great comedy *Annie Hall*?



■ CINEMA

Would King Kong love to get his great hairy hands on your exciting, action-packed dialogue?



■ CINEMA

If so, enter our competition and you could soon be pitching your ideas to the big studios

Hey, kid, you want to be in movies? *The Times* Screenwriting Competition offers aspiring auteurs their big break

Write yourself onto the silver screen

Just because Emma Thompson brought home an Oscar this week for her screenplay of *Sense and Sensibility*, Britain has not turned into a seceded of screenwriters.

When *The Times* launched its Screenwriting Competition last year, the four judges uncovered more talent than they might have expected, and perhaps less than they hoped. As David Aukin — head of drama for Channel 4 and the man who commissions *Film on Four* — says: "The competition proved it is a lot harder than most people imagine."

Norma Heyman, the independent producer of *Dangerous Liaisons* who has just finished work on Christopher Hampton's script of *The Secret Agent*, says that time and again, she "read an idea, got very excited, and was then disappointed by the specimen scene". Her advice to hopefuls is "learn to parse. The camera can speak."

Even last year's winner, Richard Rees — just back from a week in Hollywood, telling agents and studios about his script of *The Mercenary's Tale*, an English Civil War drama — has learned that finishing a screenplay is the first step in a punishing process of rewrites and collaboration: "A lot of what screenwriting seems to be about is not saying things, rather than yours is probably within the top half per cent of screenplays."

The last of the four judges, Mark Shivas — head of films at the BBC who in post-production with a film of Roddy Doyle's *The Van*, directed by Stephen Frears — confesses that he starts writing the minute the script starts telling him



tive sample scenes, rather than a minimum number of words of dialogue.

As another of the judges, Tim Bevan, whose production company Working Title made *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and the just released *Dead Man Walking*, adds: "The script for Nicolas Roeg's *Walkabout* was apparently just 18 pages long."

Bevan sees writing as the one weak spot in the British film industry, which is brimming with talented actors and technicians. He says there are a lot of good screenwriters in Britain, but they are in television. Bevan reckons that if you have a story that catches people's attention and have characters who are believable, then yours is probably within the top half per cent of screenplays."

The last of the four judges, Mark Shivas — head of films at the BBC who in post-production with a film of Roddy Doyle's *The Van*, directed by Stephen Frears — confesses that he starts writing the minute the script starts telling him

things he already knows, or things he does not need to know.

To offer some guidance to novices entering this year's competition, the judges have picked two examples of screenwriting that they feel highlight what good writing should do, one from Richard Curtis's *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the other from *Dead Man Walking*, which goes on general release in Britain tomorrow.

What is it about this extract from *Four Weddings* between Charles (Hugh Grant) and Tom (James Fleet) that makes it stand out as a piece of screenwriting?

For David Aukin, whose recent productions include *Trainspotting*, the scene "marks the emotional turning point in the story. The group of friends have been made aware of their own mortality and Charlie realises it's time for him to try to make a commitment."

Heymann praises the scene for "writing of the finest order. It manages to be both profound and accessible... economical, yet very effective and clever."

Of the excerpt from *Dead Man Walking*, Shivas says: "Susan Sarandon's mother has just questioned her motives in helping a killer [Sean Penn]. This is a scene where Sarandon [Helen] tries to find out something about Matt [Penn] and his family, but Matt quickly turns the tables and questions her, puts her on the defensive and we find out a lot about them both in a very economical way."

Mel Brooks once declared that "anybody can direct; there are only 11 good writers". Well, this is your chance to prove you are the twelfth.

JOE JOSEPH



Speak up, we want to hear you: Rowan Atkinson as the vicar in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the most successful British film ever

FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL

TOM
Walk, Charlie?
CHARLES
Yes. That would be grand.

They begin to stride.

TOM

Gosh, that was some display, wasn't it — never felt like that — I mean, something vaguely similar for Jilly when I was young...

CHARLES

Jilly?
TOM
Labrador.
CHARLES
Ah, it's odd, isn't it — all that time we were single and carefree, we never noticed our two best friends were to all extents and purposes married.

TOM

You're right. Traitors in our midst.

CHARLES smiles.

TOM (contd)

In a way I think death is hardest for the parents, don't you? I hope I die before my children.

CHARLES

Tom — one thing I find really... (*Can't find the word*) is your total confidence you will get married. What if you never find the right girl?

TOM

Sorry?

CHARLES

I mean surely if that service shows anything it shows there is such a thing as a perfect match. And if we can't find that perfect match, or can't tie them down — we can't be like Gareth and Matthew, surely we should let it be? Some of us just aren't going to get married.

TOM

Well, I don't know, Charlie, truth is — unlike you, I've never expected the thunderbolt — always hoped I'd just meet some nice, friendly girl, like the look of her, hope the look of me doesn't make her physically sick — then pop the question and settle down and be happy.

CHARLES takes this in.

TOM (contd)

It worked for my parents... well, apart from the divorce and all that.

CHARLES

Dear Tom, you're very wise. Maybe all this one true love stuff gets you nowhere.

And, as they walk on...

TOM

I shall miss Gareth most awfully.

... an alarm clock rings.

DEAD MAN WALKING

SCENE 68 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — MATT LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN

MATT:

My Daddy took me to a bar when I was twelve and told me to pick my whiskey, so, there was all these bottles behind the bar, and I pointed up there and I said, "I'll take that one there with the pretty turkey on it."

SCENE 69 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — HELEN LOOKS LFG AT OS. MATT

MATT: (OFF)

The guys in the bar laughed their butts off. We got drunk as a couple of coots that night.

SCENE 70 — MS — MATT LOOKS RFG THROUGH THE MESH SCREEN AT HELEN, CAMERA MOVING IN.

MATT:

My Daddy was a good man. Sharecropper, hard worker. That's the one thing I got from him: working hands.

SCENE 71 — MS — HELEN LOOKS LFG THROUGH THE MESH SCREEN AT MATT.

HELEN:

How old were you when he died?

MATT:

Fourteen.

HELEN:

Hmm.

SCENE 72 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — MATT EXHALES CIGARETTE SMOKE AND LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN

MATT:

(exhales) Why's you a nun?

SCENE 73 — MS — HELEN LOOKS LFG THROUGH THE MESH SCREEN AT MATT, CAMERA MOVING IN.

HELEN:

I was drawn to it, I guess. I mean, that's a hard question to answer. It's like asking you why you're a con...

SCENE 74 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — MATT LOOKS RFG.

HELEN: (OFF)

...vict.

MATT:

Bad luck.

HELEN: (OFF)

Good luck, then.

SCENE 75 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — HELEN LOOKS LFG.

HELEN:

I had a loving family, a lot of support. I guess I felt obliged to give some of it back.

SCENE 76 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — MATT LOOKS RFG.

MATT:

Don't you miss havin' a man? Don't you want to get married, fall in love, have sex?

SCENE 77 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — HELEN LOOKS LFG.

SCENE 78 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — MATT LOOKS RFG.

MATT:

What, you don't want to talk about it?

SCENE 79 — MCS — THROUGH MESH SCREEN — HELEN LOOKS LFG.

HELEN:

Well, I have close friends, men and women. I've never experienced sexual intimacy, but there's other ways of being close. Sharing your dreams, your thoughts, your feelings.

SCENE 80 — MCS — MATT LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN

HELEN: (OFF)

That's bein' intimate, too.

SCENE 81 — MCS — HELEN LOOKS LFG AT OS. MATT

MATT:

We got intimacy right now, don't we, Sister?

SCENE 82 — MCS — MATT LOOKS RFG.

HELEN: (OFF)

... board hearing if you want her to.

SCENE 83 — MCS — HELEN LOOKS LFG.

MATT:

I like being alone with you. You're looking real good to me.

SCENE 84 — MCS — MATT LOOKS RFG.

HELEN: (OFF)

I'm not here for your amusement, Matthew. Show some respect.

SCENE 85 — CS — HELEN LOOKS LFG AT OS. MATT

MATT:

Why should I respect you? 'Cause you're a nun? 'Cause you wear a little cross around your neck?

SCENE 86 — CS — MATT LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN, CAMERA TILTING DOWN AS HE TAKES A DRAG FROM HIS CIGARETTE

SCENE 87 — CS — HELEN LOOKS LFG

MATT:

What's the answer, what's it gonna be with your Mama?

SCENE 88 — INT. PARDON BOARD HEARING ROOM — DAY — MS — LUCILLE SITS AT THE DEFENDANT'S TABLE. AN ATTORNEY SITS R OF HER. MATT SITS R OF HER. HILTON SITS R OF MATT AND LOOKS LFG AT LUCILLE. HELEN AND COLLEEN ARE BG.

LUCILLE: (crying)

When he was six, he...

LUCILLE DROPS HER HEAD TO THE TABLE SOBBING.

LUCILLE: (Sobs)

SCENE 89 — FS — PAST THE FG PARDON REVIEW BOARD, ACROSS THE ROOM TO THE DEFENDANT'S TABLE. LUCILLE IS HELPED UP BY ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS AND HELEN. HILTON GRABS THE MICROPHONE AND PLACES IT IN FRONT OF HIM AS HELEN WALKS LUCILLE R.

LUCILLE: (Cries)

SCENE 90 — FS — HELEN WALKS LUCILLE FG UP THE AISLE. THE PARDON REVIEW BOARD IS BG.

HILTON:

Ladies and gentlemen, let's be honest. You're not gonna find many rich people on Death Row.

Matthew Poncelet's here today because he's poor.

THE TIMES SCREENWRITING COMPETITION 1996

Your chance to become a Hollywood scriptwriter

Today *The Times* launches the 1996 Screenwriting Competition which aims to find Britain's top filmwriting talent. This prestigious competition, now in its second year, offers a first prize of an all-expenses-paid trip to Hollywood with introductions to key executives at major studios for the winner to pitch his or her script. Accommodation will be at the famed Chateau Marmont hotel on Sunset Boulevard, the haunt of many screenwriters.

In addition the winner, and four runners-up, will be offered workshops with the judges who will provide advice on developing the scripts.

This year's competition will be judged by David Aukin, head of drama at Channel 4 Television, Tim Bevan, managing director of Working Title Films, Norma Heyman, managing director of NFH Productions and Mark Shivas, head of films for BBC television.

Last year's winner was Richard

THE TIMES THURSDAY MARCH 28 1996

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■ FILM 1

Director Tim Robbins takes a giant stride forward in his powerful new *Dead Man Walking*



■ FILM 2

... while action maestro Renny Harlin takes a giant stride back in the clichéd pirate flick *Cutthroat Island*



■ FILM 3

Steve Martin dares to duplicate the immortal Phil Silvers, in the vulgar Hollywood remake *Sgt Bilko*



■ FILM 4

A wolf-dog as hero and plenty of snow, but the animated feature *Balto* doesn't add up to much

An eye for the irony, a tooth for the truth

CINEMA: Geoff Brown pays his respects to the honest, uncompromising, Oscar-winning *Dead Man Walking*

Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn size up each other in a New Orleans prison. Sarandon, winner of this year's Best Actress Oscar, sits brimming with naive good intentions, trying to be a friend. Penn stares back with a cocky grin, a scowled goatee, a tight little moustache and hair that don't want to mess with.

He stands convicted of killing two teenagers in Lovers' Lane after raping the girl and stabbing her 17 times. His partner had a better lawyer and got life imprisonment, but Penn's Matthew Poncelet sits on death row. He is surly, hard-hearted, a racist who thinks Hitler went just a bit too far; not an attractive hero. But then *Dead Man Walking* is not interested in parceling up characters and plot in the conventional Hollywood way. Inspired by Sister Helen Prejean's account of her dealings with Louisiana prisoners, Tim Robbins's powerful film faces up squarely to the conflicts and irony of capital punishment, which inflicts cruel death on those convicted of inflicting the same.

Does Poncelet have a soul to save? Sarandon's Sister Helen believes so. As part of her brief to minister to the New Orleans poor, she visits Poncelet in prison. Although Robbins's script makes visits to the murder scene, the grieving families and the chillingly clinical execution chamber, the film's heart lies in these meetings between two faces, two different worlds, variously separated by grilles, bars or Perspex.

Sarandon is infinitely subtle in her emotional responses: her big brown eyes have rarely gazed with such penetration. She makes Sister Helen no plaster saint, but a fallible human being, tainted with arrogance. She does not hide behind make-up; nor does the prison hide behind gothic shadows. Warm lighting creates an ordinary, bland environment, which packs its own

Dead Man Walking
Warner West End
15, 122 mins
Powerful death row drama

Cutthroat Island
Warner West End
PG, 125 mins
Redundant and miscast pirate movie

Sgt Bilko
Empire, PG, 95 mins
Unwelcome spin-off from the TV classic

Balto
Plaza, U, 78 mins
Ineffective cartoon set in Alaska

Dunston Checks In
Odeon West End
PG, 88 mins
Havoc with an orang-utan in a five-star hotel

Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace
Odeon West End
12, 92 mins
Moderate high-tech fantasy

erotic punch. As for Penn, none of his past performances matches the intensity of his work here. You might not wish to meet Poncelet in an alley, but on a cinema screen this complex scoundrel, remorse buried deep beneath hate, is a fascinating character.

To some extent Poncelet is the film's own invention: Robbins (see interview below) took two real-life prisoners, one amiable, one not, and merged them. Although the fabrication chips away some of the film's stans as a painful true story, it was a smart move dramatically to focus on one relationship. This confident, finely chiselled work is only Robbins's second as director, the eighth wonder of the world. Who would dare duplicate Silvers's creation of Ernest G. Bilko, the fast-talking Master Sergeant dedicated to fleecing every cent from his platoon? The answer, in *Sgt Bilko*, is Steve Martin, last seen updating *Silas Marner* in *A Simple Twist of Fate*. His career choices grow increasingly bizarre.

Where Silvers's motor pool was stocked with veteran character actors, Martin's bunch are fresh-faced youngsters, to match the intended audience.

Character names are the same, although Bilko's henchman Henshaw has turned black and Barbelli is female.

Andy Breckman's script plunders some of Hikken's best lines, while Martin plucks the famous Bilko yell. The film, directed by Jonathan Lynn, may not be as dire as expectations and the trailer suggested; but no one who has seen the originals will clutch this broad, vulgar spin-off to their bosom.

From *Bilko* to *Balto*: a bland animated film from Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment. The story, based at some distance on truth, is set in Alaska during a diphtheria epidemic in 1925. This lands the artists with two big problems. How do you separate one tract of snow

after his mischievous political satire *Bob Roberts*. He has taken a giant stride forward. Renny Harlin, the action-movie maestro, takes a giant stride back with *Cutthroat Island*, an expensive and reckless movie that, inch for inch, probably contains more pirate clichés and gunpowder explosions than any other. It might make a slight dent on people too young to know what a good swashbuckler looks like, although even they may find at the one-dimensional characters and the dull repetition of chases, swordfights, and debris descending in slow-motion.

The star attraction is Geena Davis, the director's wife, giving a supposed feminist twist to the genre as Morgan Adams, a feisty 17th-century lass who assumes control of her father's pirate ship in the Caribbean. Strapped into low-cut dresses, with long straggly hair and a cut across her left eyebrow, Davis literally thrusts herself forward as a tough-talking action heroine. But in doing so, her natural qualities and droll sense of comedy are quashed.

Her companion in misfortune is Matthew Modine, an educated thief who joins Morgan in hunting for buried treasure. Modine's nonchalance might suit modern dramas, but in a period extravaganza like this a puff of wind could blow him away. Unfortunately it does not.

At least Frank Langella relishes the villainous role of Morgan's uncle Dawg. Most of the time, cast and crew strain with effort. Making *Cutthroat Island* used up the resources of Malta, Thailand, Jim Henson's Creature Workshop, a model unit at Pinewood Studios, the London Symphony Orchestra, and \$70 million. The production company, Caroleo, is now fighting for survival. Was it worth it?

Television comedy aficionados rightly regard *The Phil Silvers Show*, produced by Nat Hiken for CBS in the 1950s, as

the eighth wonder of the world. Who would dare duplicate Silvers's creation of Ernest G. Bilko, the fast-talking Master Sergeant dedicated to fleecing every cent from his platoon? The answer, in *Sgt Bilko*, is Steve Martin, last seen updating *Silas Marner* in *A Simple Twist of Fate*. His career choices grow increasingly bizarre.

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Family entertainment perks up slightly with *Dunston Checks In*, a breezy comedy about an orang-utan, two kids and Rupert Everett causing mayhem in a five-star hotel. Unlike *Babe* the pig, the orang-utan does not speak, but he blows raspberries nicely. Everett does a Terry-Thomas turn as the aristocratic poseur who uses the monkey to steal jewels: a tiresome sight, a tiresome sight, but it gets the film's best line when

he tells his charge, "I have two words to say to you: medical experiment."

The real star of the film is the hotel setting, and youngsters should have reasonable fun seeing luxurious trappings trashed. Adults can amuse themselves watching Jason Alexander (from *Seinfeld*), and ungloriously pondering Faye Dunaway's age. Ken Kwapis, a TV hand, directed.

If phrases such as "virtual reality" and "global interface" bring a sparkle to your eyes, then *Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace* may be just the ticket. Stick-in-the-muds who like movies to reflect concrete reality will have a harder time, although director Farhad Mann shoves enough action on the screen to stop people falling asleep.

Matt Frewer assumes the title role of the scientist's guinea pig who wants to control the world from cyberspace, while Patrick Bergin, "the Einstein of virtual reality", tries to stop him.

As he finally tells the town braggart, "Since when do you need a pedigree to help someone?" This is toe-curling stuff, indifferently voiced by Kevin Bacon, Bridget Fonda and others.

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A wolf-dog as hero and plenty of snow, but the animated feature *Balto* doesn't add up to much



Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn as the nun and the murderer in Tim Robbins's powerful attack on the death penalty, *Dead Man Walking*

Extremely provoking'



Every week young film fans discuss new releases...

DEAD MAN WALKING

Paul Maynard, 20: This is excellent: the best film I've seen since *Schindler's List*. Atmospheric, good cinematography, and Steve Martin certainly deserved her Oscar.

James Danton, 18: The scenes with Sarandon and Penn were electrifying. The film is extremely provoking; it has changed my views on the death penalty.

Thomas Stevens, 18: Excellent. I thought I might be irritated by the moral tone, but it was fairly convincing.

Alexandra Williams, 22: Extremely good; you come out feeling emotionally battered. Tim Robbins directs really well, and allows you to make your own judgment.

LAWN MOWER MAN 2

Paul: Absolutely dire: this is plotless and ridiculous. The special effects are far from special.

James: This called itself "Beyond Cyberspace", but it was actually beyond help. Even the orang-utan of *Dunston* acted better than the cast of this.

Thomas: This was pretty awful. Clichés abound, and it was corny and annoying like a cheap television feature.

Alexandra: It only took me a minute to realise that this was horrendous. The effects were nearly all right, but the subject matter just didn't appeal.

DUNSTON CHECKS IN

Paul: I wanted to hate this — I normally hate animal films — but I enjoyed it despite myself. A lot of fun.

James: This was very funny, but it was any longer. It would have dragged.

Thomas: Probably more of a kids' movie. I thought I wouldn't like it but it was fun. Not too cheesy either — more a soufflé.

Alexandra: This was nothing new: good family entertainment, a good cast, the usual characters.

Dead man talking

Why Tim Robbins spoke up for the inmates on death row



Tim Robbins: "There are no rich people on death row"

plied with apt concision that there was no great debate on whether the state should be killing innocents.

Even though the money came from English backers — Polygram and Working Title — and Robbins made the film he and Sister Prejean wanted, it features a harrowing murder, parental anger of stunning vehemence, and a bitter, racist, profoundly unlikeable death-row inmate. Box office returns have outstripped forecasts, but many Americans who have seen the film have emerged so moved by its portrayals of murder victims' families that they are unsure on which side of the death penalty fence Robbins stands.

The death penalty is not Hollywood's favourite subject. Despite Robbins's clout as an infatuated talent polymath (he wrote, directed and starred in the political satire *Bob Roberts* four years ago) no American studio wanted to touch something as bleak as the true story of the legal killing of a murderer. One studio chief did phone to ask if the prisoner's role couldn't be rewritten to make him innocent, but Robbins's agent re-

furthermore, he argues, capital punishment is racist and too expensive in its application. "Most people on death row are there for killing a white person but when nobodies get killed they don't push for the death penalty." He cites recent research suggesting that it costs twice as much to execute a man than to imprison him for life. For good measure, he congratulates Britain's Parliament on refusing to put the death penalty to a referendum. "You have leaders in your country," he declares. "They know what it costs a society, financially and morally, to cross the line and allow killing in its own name."

One of the few tense moments in Monday night's Oscar ceremony came as Susan Sarandon took the podium to accept her Best Actress award for playing Sister Prejean. It was not the prospect of tears that worried her audience, but of a political harangue. Sarandon and Robbins had effectively been barred from participating in Oscar night since an impromptu diatribe in 1992 on behalf of Haitian internees.

In the event she did not even mention the death penalty, appealing instead simply for "a non-violent way to end violence". Even in the backstage press pen she spoke mainly of the joys of motherhood: known for her efforts not to let work distance her from her family, she has no films planned until her partner Robbins finishes filming a comedy this autumn. For his part, table hockey and virtual basketball are installed in his production offices so that Eva (11), Jack Henry (seven) and Miles (four) feel welcome.

GILES WHITTELL

ACADEMY AWARD WINNER

BEST ACTOR

NICOLAS CAGE

"BRILLIANT...DON'T MISS IT"
"COMPELLING...EXCEPTIONALLY MOVING"
"An award-winning masterpiece"

NICOLAS CAGE

ELISABETH SHUE

GOLDEN GLOBE
WINNER
NICOLAS CAGE
BEST ACTOR

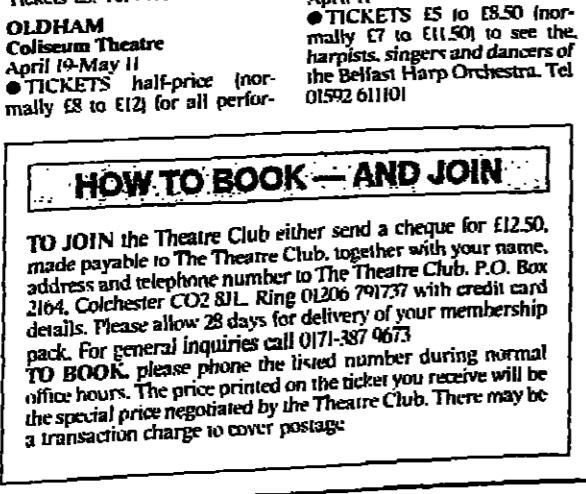
LEAVING LAS VEGAS.
A MIKE FIGGIS FILM

AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE NOW



HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to: The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL. Ring 01206 791727 with credit card details. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 4673.





CHOICE 1
John Hannah stars in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion, *Miss Julie*
VENUE: Tonight at the Young Vic



CHOICE 2
Final week in Plymouth for F. Murray Abraham in the new *Tolstoy*
VENUE: Tonight at the Theatre Royal

LONDON
MISS JULIE: Poly Teatre directs Susan Lynch and John Hannah in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion and doom. The much heralded Teatre is soon to be co-directed by Natascha Wittenberg. **Times** 0171-228 6363. Preview tonight and opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. **Mon-Sat** 8pm. **Apr 2** 8pm.

MUSICAL POWERHOUSES: Some of London's finest musicals compete for audience attention tonight. The London Symphony Orchestra continues its *Bach to Beethoven* series with Daniel Gaub at the Royal Festival Hall. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra also performs a programme of Rachmaninov and Shostakovich with the London Philharmonic. Both at 7.30pm.

Berkeley St, EC2 0171-638 8919. **LSD, Festival Hall, South Bank** 0171-921 4242. **LPO**.

ENTERTAINERS: Opening night for the best of the Donmar Warehouse's *Passion*. Sola's acclaimed and richly atmospheric drama follows on, women of the 1800s at work on *Bordertown*. Ian Brown's production for *Donmar Warehouse* at the Eastern Street, WC2 (0171-373 1732). Tonight, 7pm. Then **Mon-Sat**, 8pm. **Apr 4**, 8pm. **Sun**, 7pm. **Apr 6**.

ELSEWHERE: **BRISTOL:** American jazz pianist **Jessica Williams** has earned herself some high praise from very high

TODAY'S CHOICE
A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

places, including Dave Brubeck's "one of the greatest jazz pianists I have ever heard". **Mon-Sat** 7.30pm. **Apr 1** 8pm. **Southbank** 0171-921 4242. **Apr 3** 8pm. **Southbank, Concourse Club** 01703-613 6991. **Apr 4**, **Paramount, Matings** 01282-228 234.

MANCHESTER: **One** **Harriet** directs **Macbeth** PFP's adaptation of *Twelfth Night* with **Glenn** as the heroine lacing herself by an encroaching modern world.

Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square 0161-833 8833. **Opens** **Apr 1** 7.30pm. **Mon-Sat**, 8pm. **Apr 2** 8pm. **Mon-Sat**, 8pm. **Apr 3** 8pm. **Mon-Sat**, 8pm. **Apr 4** 8pm. **Mon-Sat**, 8pm. **Apr 5**.

Also in Manchester: **Kent Nagano** leads the **Halle Orchestra** for a programme of Haydn's *Symphony No. 1*, Brahms' *Double Concerto* for Violin and Cello and Schubert's *Mass in G*. **Apr 4** 8pm. **Rehearsed tomorrow in Hanley, substituting *Stabat Mater* for Schubert's *Mass in G*. **Apr 5** 8pm. **St. George's Hall, Peter Street** 0161-834 1712. **Tonight**, 7.30pm. **£5**.**

COVENTRY: Opening night for Strindberg's *Miss Julie* of Miss and Men. **Marvin Harvey** directs **Peter Sherry** and the simple giant, **Michael Gunne**, as the why lamb and the simple giant, **variously** searching for the American Dream in a Depression-bound America. **Apr 1** 8pm. **Regal, Belgrave Square** 01203-552058. **Tonight**, 7.30pm. **Then** **Mon-Thurs**, 7.30pm. **Fri and Sat**, 8pm. **Met** **Apr 3** 8pm. **Mon-Thurs**, 7.30pm. **Until** **Apr 13**. **£5**.

PLYMOUTH: Last week of performances here for *Tolstoy*, starring **F. Murray Abraham** and **Gemma Jones**. **Jenny Sams** directs the much-awaited new play *Giorgio's Last Stand*, of **London** in *Giorgio's Last Stand*. **Open** from next week prior to a West End run.

Theatre Royal, Royal Parade 01752-222221. **Tonight**, 7.30pm. **Then** **Mon-Thurs**, 7.30pm. **Fri and Sat**, 8pm. **Met** **Apr 3** 8pm. **Mon-Thurs**, 7.30pm. **Then** **Mon-Thurs**, 7.30pm. **Fri and Sat**, 8pm. **Met** **Apr 4** 8pm. **Mon-Thurs**, 7.30pm. **Then** **Mon-Thurs**, 7.30pm. **Fri and Sat**, 8pm. **Met** **Apr 5** 8pm.

LONDON GALLERIES: **British Museum:** **St William Hamilton** collection (0171-638 1555). **Courtauld:** Drawings by Thomas Gainsborough (0171-873 2229). **National Gallery:** Old master paintings (0171-730 7447-2289). **National Portrait Gallery:** Faces of the 80s (0171-306 0056). **Royal Academy:** Gustav Klimt's *The Kiss* (0171-730 8000). **V&A:** *The Leighton Frescoes* (0171-338 6500). **Whistler:** **Jeff Wall**, illuminated portraits (0171-522 7688).

Theatre Listings: **Royal Court, Sloane Square** SW1 0171-730 1745. **Previews** **Apr 1** 8pm. **Apr 2** 8pm.

THEATRE GUIDE: **Jenny Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London**

ROH: **Mon-Sat**, **rehearsal** **only**
seats at all prices

7.45pm, Met Sat, 2.30pm. Opens Apr 1. £5

LAITTLE NIGHT MUSIC: **Elegant** **Rehearsal** **only**
seats at all prices

7.45pm, Met Sat, 2.30pm, Sat, 8pm

LADY INTO FOX: **Intimate musical** **by** **Nell Bartlett** and **Nicolas Bloomfield** **based on** **David Garnett's** mysterious, **dark** **novella**. **Stunning** **Louise Gough** **and** **Dale Rapley**, **with** **Bloomfield** **at** **the** **piano**.

Lyric Studio, King Street,

Hammersmith 0181-741 2311. **Opens** **Apr 1** 8pm. **Mon-Fri**, **7.30pm**. **Sat, Sun**, **8pm**. **Apr 20**.

THE LAST ROMANTICS: **Maggie Steer, Mark Knopfler and Robert Langdon Lloyd** in elegant **Nigel Williams** play, **first seen** on **TV**. **about** **F. R. Lewis** and **her former mentor, Quiller Couch**. **Mon-Sat**, **8pm**. **Apr 1** 8pm. **Apr 2** 8pm. **Apr 3** 8pm. **Apr 4** 8pm. **Apr 5** 8pm. **Apr 6** 8pm. **Apr 7** 8pm. **Apr 8** 8pm. **Apr 9** 8pm. **Apr 10** 8pm. **Apr 11** 8pm. **Apr 12** 8pm. **Apr 13** 8pm. **Apr 14** 8pm. **Apr 15** 8pm. **Apr 16** 8pm. **Apr 17** 8pm. **Apr 18** 8pm. **Apr 19** 8pm. **Apr 20** 8pm. **Apr 21** 8pm. **Apr 22** 8pm. **Apr 23** 8pm. **Apr 24** 8pm. **Apr 25** 8pm. **Apr 26** 8pm. **Apr 27** 8pm. **Apr 28** 8pm. **Apr 29** 8pm. **Apr 30** 8pm. **Apr 31** 8pm. **May 1** 8pm. **May 2** 8pm. **May 3** 8pm. **May 4** 8pm. **May 5** 8pm. **May 6** 8pm. **May 7** 8pm. **May 8** 8pm. **May 9** 8pm. **May 10** 8pm. **May 11** 8pm. **May 12** 8pm. **May 13** 8pm. **May 14** 8pm. **May 15** 8pm. **May 16** 8pm. **May 17** 8pm. **May 18** 8pm. **May 19** 8pm. **May 20** 8pm. **May 21** 8pm. **May 22** 8pm. **May 23** 8pm. **May 24** 8pm. **May 25** 8pm. **May 26** 8pm. **May 27** 8pm. **May 28** 8pm. **May 29** 8pm. **May 30** 8pm. **May 31** 8pm. **May 32** 8pm. **May 33** 8pm. **May 34** 8pm. **May 35** 8pm. **May 36** 8pm. **May 37** 8pm. **May 38** 8pm. **May 39** 8pm. **May 40** 8pm. **May 41** 8pm. **May 42** 8pm. **May 43** 8pm. **May 44** 8pm. **May 45** 8pm. **May 46** 8pm. **May 47** 8pm. **May 48** 8pm. **May 49** 8pm. **May 50** 8pm. **May 51** 8pm. **May 52** 8pm. **May 53** 8pm. **May 54** 8pm. **May 55** 8pm. **May 56** 8pm. **May 57** 8pm. **May 58** 8pm. **May 59** 8pm. **May 60** 8pm. **May 61** 8pm. **May 62** 8pm. **May 63** 8pm. **May 64** 8pm. **May 65** 8pm. **May 66** 8pm. **May 67** 8pm. **May 68** 8pm. **May 69** 8pm. **May 70** 8pm. **May 71** 8pm. **May 72** 8pm. **May 73** 8pm. **May 74** 8pm. **May 75** 8pm. **May 76** 8pm. **May 77** 8pm. **May 78** 8pm. **May 79** 8pm. **May 80** 8pm. **May 81** 8pm. **May 82** 8pm. **May 83** 8pm. **May 84** 8pm. **May 85** 8pm. **May 86** 8pm. **May 87** 8pm. **May 88** 8pm. **May 89** 8pm. **May 90** 8pm. **May 91** 8pm. **May 92** 8pm. **May 93** 8pm. **May 94** 8pm. **May 95** 8pm. **May 96** 8pm. **May 97** 8pm. **May 98** 8pm. **May 99** 8pm. **May 100** 8pm. **May 101** 8pm. **May 102** 8pm. **May 103** 8pm. **May 104** 8pm. **May 105** 8pm. **May 106** 8pm. **May 107** 8pm. **May 108** 8pm. **May 109** 8pm. **May 110** 8pm. **May 111** 8pm. **May 112** 8pm. **May 113** 8pm. **May 114** 8pm. **May 115** 8pm. **May 116** 8pm. **May 117** 8pm. **May 118** 8pm. **May 119** 8pm. **May 120** 8pm. **May 121** 8pm. **May 122** 8pm. **May 123** 8pm. **May 124** 8pm. **May 125** 8pm. **May 126** 8pm. **May 127** 8pm. **May 128** 8pm. **May 129** 8pm. **May 130** 8pm. **May 131** 8pm. **May 132** 8pm. **May 133** 8pm. **May 134** 8pm. **May 135** 8pm. **May 136** 8pm. **May 137** 8pm. **May 138** 8pm. **May 139** 8pm. **May 140** 8pm. **May 141** 8pm. **May 142** 8pm. **May 143** 8pm. **May 144** 8pm. **May 145** 8pm. **May 146** 8pm. **May 147** 8pm. **May 148** 8pm. **May 149** 8pm. **May 150** 8pm. **May 151** 8pm. **May 152** 8pm. **May 153** 8pm. **May 154** 8pm. **May 155** 8pm. **May 156** 8pm. **May 157** 8pm. **May 158** 8pm. **May 159** 8pm. **May 160** 8pm. **May 161** 8pm. **May 162** 8pm. **May 163** 8pm. **May 164** 8pm. **May 165** 8pm. **May 166** 8pm. **May 167** 8pm. **May 168** 8pm. **May 169** 8pm. **May 170** 8pm. **May 171** 8pm. **May 172** 8pm. **May 173** 8pm. **May 174** 8pm. **May 175** 8pm. **May 176** 8pm. **May 177** 8pm. **May 178** 8pm. **May 179** 8pm. **May 180** 8pm. **May 181** 8pm. **May 182** 8pm. **May 183** 8pm. **May 184** 8pm. **May 185** 8pm. **May 186** 8pm. **May 187** 8pm. **May 188** 8pm. **May 189** 8pm. **May 190** 8pm. **May 191** 8pm. **May 192** 8pm. **May 193** 8pm. **May 194** 8pm. **May 195** 8pm. **May 196** 8pm. **May 197** 8pm. **May 198** 8pm. **May 199** 8pm. **May 200** 8pm. **May 201** 8pm. **May 202** 8pm. **May 203** 8pm. **May 204** 8pm. **May 205** 8pm. **May 206** 8pm. **May 207** 8pm. **May 208** 8pm. **May 209** 8pm. **May 210** 8pm. **May 211** 8pm. **May 212** 8pm. **May 213** 8pm. **May 214** 8pm. **May 215** 8pm. **May 216** 8pm. **May 217** 8pm. **May 218** 8pm. **May 219** 8pm. **May 220** 8pm. **May 221** 8pm. **May 222** 8pm. **May 223** 8pm. **May 224** 8pm. **May 225** 8pm. **May 226** 8pm. **May 227** 8pm. **May 228** 8pm. **May 229** 8pm. **May 230** 8pm. **May 231** 8pm. **May 232** 8pm. **May 233** 8pm. **May 234** 8pm. **May 235** 8pm. **May 236** 8pm. **May 237** 8pm. **May 238** 8pm. **May 239** 8pm. **May 240** 8pm. **May 241** 8pm. **May 242** 8pm. **May 243** 8pm. **May 244** 8pm. **May 245** 8pm. **May 246** 8pm. **May 247** 8pm. **May 248** 8pm. **May 249** 8pm. **May 250** 8pm. **May 251** 8pm. **May 252** 8pm. **May 253** 8pm. **May 254** 8pm. **May 255** 8pm. **May 256** 8pm. **May 257** 8pm. **May 258** 8pm. **May 259** 8pm. **May 260** 8pm. **May 261** 8pm. **May 262** 8pm. **May 263</b**

Court order to journalist to disclose source violated Convention

Goodwin v United Kingdom

(Case No 16/1994/6354)

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges R. Bernhardt, Thor Vilhjálmsson, F. Mässcher, B. Walsh, C. Russo, A. Spielmann, J. De Meyer, N. Valicos, E. Palm, F. Biki, Sir John Freeland, A. B. Baka, D. Gorchev, B. Replik, P. Jambrek, P. Kürs and U. Löhnus
Registrar H. Petzold
Deputy Registrar P. J. Mahoney
Judgment March 27

A court order requiring the applicant, a journalist, to reveal his source of information and the fine imposed upon him for having refused to do so gave rise to a violation of his right to freedom of expression under article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights held by eleven votes to seven.

Article 10 of the Convention provides:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This article shall not prevent states from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises."

The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are necessary in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."

Mr William Goodwin, a British national, was a journalist and lived in London. In August 1989 he joined the staff of *The Engineer* as a trainee journalist. On November of that year, he was telephoned by an informant, who gave him unsolicited information about a company Tetra Ltd, to the effect that

the company were in the process of raising a £3 million loan and had financial problems as a result of an expected loss of £2 million for 1989 on a turnover of £20.3 million.

On November 6 and 7, Mr Goodwin called Tetra to check the facts and seek their comments on the information he had been given concerning the financial problems of the company. He subsequently prepared a draft article on the subject for publication in *The Engineer*.

Being of the opinion that the information originated from a draft of its confidential corporate plan which had been given to him, Mr Goodwin applied to the court for an injunction to restrain Morgan-Grampian (Publishers) Ltd, publishers of *The Engineer* from publishing Mr Goodwin's article.

A court order requiring the applicant, a journalist, to reveal his source of information and the fine imposed upon him for having refused to do so gave rise to a violation of his right to freedom of expression under article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights held by eleven votes to seven.

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been established. Throughout the proceedings the applicant had refused to disclose his notes. On April 10, 1990 the High Court fined him £5,000 for contempt of court.

The application was lodged with the European Commission of Human Rights on September 27, 1990. It was declared admissible on September 7, 1993. Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on March 1, 1994 in which it established the facts and expressed the opinion that there had been a violation of article 10 of the Convention (eighth vote to six).

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

I Admitted violation of article 10

The applicant complained under article 10 about the disclosure of his notes and the fine imposed upon him for having refused to do so. It was undisputed that those measures constituted an interference with his right to freedom of expression.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

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Tim Waterstone on the broad scope and high drama of a cultural chameleon's encounter with Dark Age Britain

One of the problems with reviewing a Melvyn Bragg novel is how to keep an open mind. We see him on our television screens engaging with writers as diverse as Martin Amis, Dame Barbara Cartland, Edward Albee and Tom Sharpe, so it is difficult not to build up expectations about the kind of fiction which might emerge from this cultural chameleon.

He is perhaps particularly vulnerable when his novels — most recently *A Time To Dance* and *Crystal Rooms* — have a contemporary theme. The voice is not experimental enough to save Bragg from that school of criticism which does no more than complain that he has neither the surreal comic qualities of, say, Thomas Pynchon nor the bizarre elegance of, say, Muriel Spark. Why should he be expected to?

In *Credo* he has returned to the form of the historical novel with which he had a notable success nine years ago in *The Maid of*

A romance of miracles and saints

CREDO
By Melvyn Bragg
Sceptre, £6.99

Buttermere. What emerges is a gripping saga of great passion, driven by prose of furious energy.

Credo is set in the final decades of the 7th century, when the warrior code of the Dark Ages was in confused conflict with the civilising influences of the early Church. The narrative centres on the semi-mythical figure of Bega, a young Irish princess who has been blessed with a fragment of the True Cross. She falls in love with the man who has given her knowledge — her tutor Padric, prince of the British kingdom of Rhexed. They are banished to Britain by her father after the

murder of a rapist nobleman who was to be her husband.

There follows a lifelong struggle between Bega's vocation as a bride of Christ, and her passion for Padric. Bega's journey of spiritual uncertainty is at the core of the book, as she is charged to "live for the faith" — despite her naturally wilful inclination to die for it.

Striving to distinguish God's will from her own, she is persuaded by Saint Cuthbert to renounce Padric and dedicate her life to God; she enters the Abbey of Whitby under the tutelage of Abbess Hilda, then founds a nunnery on the western coast.

Padric, still longing for marriage to Bega, finds his life absorbed in the struggle to free Rhexed from its Northumbrian overlords. Bragg draws for us a Britain locked in bloody conflict



Bragg: elemental sensibility

between the Celtic and Roman factions of the Church, a land shadowed by years of war, plague and famine. Bega and Padric work out their lives in agonising separation: finally, with Padric on his deathbed, they are movingly reunited.

The emotional pacing of the love story is well sustained against a large canvas of events and characters: some fictional, some drawn from historical accounts. Bragg seems wholly comfortable with the sweep of the period, in his own words an age "of saints, scholars, miracles, abbeys, gospels, crosses and the survival of the British".

The physical privations and brutish militarism of the time are robustly portrayed, and the social and religious framework feels authentic in its details. Bragg lists the breadth of his reading, and emphasises that his controlling text has been the Venerable Bede's *A History of The English Church And People*.

Of course, the dead hand of history can overwhelm fiction of this kind but what is impressive and moving in *Credo* is the texture

of the world that Bragg evokes. Known for his love of the Romantics, it seems that he has found in the Dark Ages another period when landscape and inner life merged into one another. He succeeds in creating a world dominated by the elements, where the characters' spiritual anxieties find constant correspondence in the physical world around them. Bega suffers "days like cliffs", her father's anger is a "storm of blood in his brain", and the image of battle seems to seep into every aspect of the characters' lives.

But these are minor quibbles against what is undoubtedly a sustained, impassioned and uplifting work of popular historical fiction. There is a far-reaching imagination at work here, and many of the sequences have a thrilling power, ranging from the battles and sea voyages to the more intimate scenes of love and visions. He should achieve a wide audience, reawakening interest in this most dramatic but these days little considered period in our nation's history.

Tim Waterstone's third novel, *A Passage of Lives*, will be published in August by Hodder Headline

Creating language at a stroke

Jean Aitchison

GROOMING, GOSSIP AND THE EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE
By Robin Dunbar
Faber, £15.99

This, he suggests, is "the number of people you would not feel embarrassed about joining uninvited for a drink if you happened to bump into them in a bar". It's roughly the number of living descendants an ancestral couple might have produced in hunter-gatherer societies.

It's also the number typically found in the villages of the earliest farmers, and is claimed to be the ideal maximum size for a church congregation or a fighting unit. This is too many for mutual manual grooming. Talking as a replacement is not so time-consuming, and allows more than one person to be "groomed" at the same time.

Others have pointed out, and as Dunbar himself admits, it is "very easy to play the numerologist and find numbers to fit whatever size your theory requires". So he is not necessarily right in his numbers game. But he has made perhaps the first serious attempt to link the observation that language is a substitute for grooming with a possible explanation for why this came about. This then, is the core of the book, which is fleshed out with discussions and diagrams showing the relationship between brain size, group size and grooming time.

Yet a basic problem is that increased brain size in humans correlates not only with group size, but also with other variables, such as an improved diet, especially meat-eating, and also with an ability to deceive, known as



Language may have replaced manual grooming: *The Lesson in the Use of the Fan* (detail), Abraham Solomon (1824-62)

the Machiavellian intelligence hypothesis. Successful deception requires a "theory of mind", an ability to imagine the viewpoint of others.

At one time the Machiavellian intelligence supporters were at loggerheads with the gossip-grooming proponents. But Dunbar has now accepted that the two ideas are complementary, not contradictory, since both involve an increase in sophisticated social manipulation.

Dunbar brings in further findings to back up his claims: we are naked apes, and lack

the hair which makes extensive manual grooming useful. He adopts the theory (not his own) that a move to less heavily forested woodlands exposed proto-humans to extensive heat from the sun. An animal which walks upright and is naked will keep cool better, with hair retained above all on the head, the surface mainly exposed to the sun at midday.

This book then provides a useful overview of some possible language triggers. But when it comes to language itself, the author is clearly

floundering, and is unaware of recent ideas — perhaps not surprising in someone who apart from his grooming-gossip work is best known for his study of the social strategies of gelada baboons. His comments on actual speech are sparse, and sometimes inaccurate, as with his brief excursion into the reconstruction of early languages.

In all, fewer than a dozen linguistics writers are mentioned, not all of them correctly spelt, and the bibliographical notes on animals which have been taught a language

system are attached to the wrong chapter.

Overall, the author has surrounded a kernel of interesting speculation with a wrapping of airy persiflage, some of it misleading. But he has shown that gossip about gossip is more than "mere windy talk".

Jean Aitchison is the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford University; her book *The Seeds of Speech: Language, Origin and Evolution* will be published in April by Cambridge University Press

His book centres on the grooming-gossip theory — that friendly chat is a replacement activity for the manual grooming of other primates. This idea is not new. The image of stroking with words occurs in Shakespeare, who makes Caliban in *The Tempest* complain: "When thou comest first, thou strok'st me, and mad'st much of me" and the notion of chitter-chatter as "grooming talk" was popularised over a quarter of a century ago by Desmond Morris in his book *The Naked Ape* (1967). But Dunbar attempts to account for the grooming-gossip link.

His theory is based crucially on group size. Human societies, he argues: "contain buried within them a natural grouping of around 150 people".

Here is a drowned man, "white and bloated as soggy bread". Here are rich, country-club girls, "their hard, smooth bodies like car fenders". Here is the realm of the perfect image, so simple and precise that it is almost possible to believe it always existed. These two collections of short stories provide landscapes wherein such images may be set like follies; is there any more to it than that?

All literary lineages are complex, and it is facile to attempt to trace a hard and fast ancestry. But Hemingway once claimed that "all modern American literature" is out of Huck Finn; it could be argued that the modern American story is descended directly from Hemingway, with Stephen Crane and Sherwood Anderson — among others — as cousins.

Hemingway tried to "...put down what really happened in action: what the actual things were which produced the emotion that you experienced..." And so Ernest Hemingway begat Raymond Carver, whose tales, hinging on a moment of perception that cuts through the world's noise, have influenced many of the present generation of American story-writers.

No ten dollar words

Erica Wagner

THE POINT
By Charles D'Ambriso
Flamingo, £9.99

A STRANGER IN THIS WORLD

By Kevin Canty
Viking, £13.50

His shadow is clearly visible on the stories of both D'Ambriso and Canty — particularly in those of the former. In *Lyricism* Potter tackles Joan for not much reason and pulls her down in the grass; in *American Bullfrog*, Freddie and Reginald collude "this, in its own way, was a kind of discussion we were having, a debate". D'Ambriso's stories — set in a Pacific Northwest where Boeing have laid off 60,000 workers — do not seek to explain confusion but reflect it.

But this makes misjudgment treacherous: the final image of *The Point* has a writing-school neatness that a more delicate, less abrasive tale, such as *Jacinta*, avoids.

But it is Canty who most effectively deploys Hemingway's tactic, particularly in *Pretty Judy*, about a boy's half-unwilling and yet inexorable liaison with a mentally handicapped girl. This tale makes the reader's emotions of fascination and disgust a mirror of the boy's compulsion. *Dogs* risks the awkward second-person, but its compression allows it to escape contrivance, and makes immediate the beautiful bodies of dogs killed for no reason other than "moving to new apt".

In Canty's final, title story, Candy Collins, feeling disjoined from life by her husband's death, "liked herself best when she was almost nothing". In a certain sense all the characters in these collections are strangers in the world, retreating from its random mysteries into the tiny, almost meaningless acts over which they have some control.

Surviving letters show that Stalin remained on kindly but distant terms with his mother in Georgia. He was indifferent to everyone else. Medical records reveal that Nadezhda, his second wife, committed suicide just before she was due for a cancer operation: perhaps she did not kill herself solely to be rid of him, as usually maintained.

EDWARD RADZINSKY is a journalist and playwright, and his biography of Stalin has more dramatic flourish than scholarly analysis. Perhaps only specialists need be concerned with the details of the career, Stalinist terror, however, does not yet convert into history. Responsible for it, was Stalin mad or bad?

Naturally he took care to leave few psychological clues, and certainly no confessional equivalent of *Mein Kampf*. Radzinsky makes much of the access he has had to the presidential and other archives which had been closed, but little more than juicy titbits are to be garnered from them. As usual with Stalin, intelligent guess work must still catch the various

floundering, and is unaware of recent ideas — perhaps not surprising in someone who apart from his grooming-gossip work is best known for his study of the social strategies of gelada baboons. His comments on actual speech are sparse, and sometimes inaccurate, as with his brief excursion into the reconstruction of early languages.

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After all, he loved his mother

David Pryce-Jones

STALIN
By Edward Radzinsky
Hodder & Stoughton, £25

LIFE AND TERROR IN STALIN'S RUSSIA

By Robert W. Thurston
Yale, £18.50

One of Radzinsky's new documents is the diary of Maria Svanidze, a woman who was both the wife of Stalin's former brother-in-law and a close friend of Nadezhda. Evidently and rightly, she anticipated arrest and wrote her diary to serve as testimony in her favour, but it still catches the various

master plotter sitting through the night in the Kremlin and marking death lists, bad enough to seem mad but sane by totalitarian standards. Lust for power is the key.

Stalin is held to have panicked at the German invasion in 1941, and to have hidden himself away for days on end.

Radzinsky has found the calendar of his engagements and the diary of an administrative

assistant which establish that Stalin was in his office for all but 48 hours of the initial period, with Politburo members and his generals. Rage was again the uppermost emotion, rage with his own mistaken assumption that Hitler would act logically.

Rage and calculation turned into outright paranoia after the war. Eastern and Central Europe were now his, he had the nuclear weapon, and he prepared for the apocalyptic triumph of communism. A month before he died, he was heard to declare: "If the imperialist gentlemen feel like going to war, there is no more suitable moment for us than this." Radzinsky interprets it literally.

Finally Radzinsky traced someone by the name of Peter Logzachev, who had been on duty in the dacha at the moment of Stalin's death. From this man's story it seems that Stalin's would-be successors deliberately denied him medical help, and possibly even made sure that he would die.

No Russian of any distinction has yet tried to argue in Stalin's favour, and it is left to

a few Western historians to claim that he was not so bad. Robert W. Thurston is an example. In his considered opinion, Stalin was often at a loss, not to say powerless, influenced by others and even by public opinion. In turn Russians fought hard in the Second World War because they admired him. State Prosecutor Andrei Vyshinsky, who shouted: "Shoot the mad dogs" at the accused, was truly concerned with fine points of judicial procedure.

NOT SO MANY were killed in the terror after all — plenty survived, and the more deplorable excesses were over by 1939 (those murdered in killing cycles between 1940 and 1953 for some reason need not be taken into account).

Revisionism of this sort, as of Nazism, proves only lack of imagination about life in a setting without any of the usual moral assumptions. Some unhappy Russians are so terrified of the future that they are willing to be duped about the past. But an American professor has no such excuse.



Stalin: left no confession

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The complexities of complicity

Gitta Sereny on the shared guilt for a nation's old wrongs

Of all the events in modern history, probably none has been more exhaustively written about than the Nazis' murder of the Jews. And here now, 51 years on, is another *cri de cœur*.

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen is a young assistant professor of government and social studies at Harvard (where his father, Erich, who survived the Nazi camps, is a visiting lecturer in Jewish studies). *Hitler's Willing Executioners* retains many of the characteristics of the 1991 doctoral dissertation from which it originates. But he is clever and a talented researcher even if, in parts of this passionately angry book, the talent is ill-used.

He sets out to prove that what he calls "eliminationist" anti-Semitism dominated German public thinking from at least 1845. The general view in Germany for more than a century, he

HITLER'S WILLING EXECUTIONERS
By Daniel Jonah Goldhagen
Little, Brown, £20

writes, was of Jews as "corrosive" "malevolent" and "incompatible with Germans". This led to the conviction that they had to be "eliminated" — in those early years preferably by conversion to Christianity.

Quotations from newspapers or public personalities of the time are carefully selected to support this thesis. There is no attempt to present comparative views. He omits the fact, for example, that the emancipation movement in Germany during the 19th century was sufficiently strong and successful that great numbers of Jews chose Germany as their refuge from the pogroms in Eastern Europe and were welcomed there.

By skimming over the liberalism of the Weimar Republic (where, incidentally a Jew, Jakob Riesser, was Vice-President of the Reichstag), he arrives at the conclusion that as the majority of Germany's Jews rejected the "benign" solution of baptism, this "eliminationist" anti-Semitism, deeply ingrained in the German personality, inevitably led to extermination.

Part II of the book deals with the German perpetrators: in occupied Eastern Europe, in the concentration camps, in labour camps, and on the "death marches" at the end of the war.

Only the last part here is new, his descriptions starkly telling. Much of the rest of the material was derived from the same source as Christopher Browning's instant classic *Ordinary Men* (1992) with which he followed up a shocking collection of letters and statements in *Those Were The Days and God With Us* by the German writers Klee, Dressen and Riess.

And they lived unhappily ever after

Antonia Fraser

THE STUART PRINCESSES
By Alison Plowden
Alan Sutton, £17.99

In order to make up for the disappointment of not being queen, "she wished to reign in the hearts of all good people by the charm of her person and the real beauty of her soul". The sentiments, which have an oddly contemporary ring, were in fact those of a 17th-century princess, Henrietta Anne, sister of Charles II, better known under her pet name Minette.

The disappointment which Minette suffered was to be slighted by her first cousin, Louis XIV, as being too young, too thin and too unimportant. In consequence she was married off to his brother, "Monsieur" Philippe Duc d'Orléans, and as "Madame", the first lady of the French court after the Queen, did indeed reign in a number of French hearts.

Nevertheless, Minette's first love and loyalty was to her brother, King Charles across the water. Minette retained a touching sense of her own destiny as an English princess. It was faithful and discreet Minette whom King Louis and King Charles used as the conduit for their clandestine negotiations which resulted in the Secret Treaty of Dover of 1670. Her premature death shortly afterwards robbed



Charles, James and Mary, three of Charles I's children

gown had to be slit up the side with a pair of shears in order to satisfy the observers, English and Dutch.

After this nervous start, Mary as Princess of Orange continued to regard her position as an English princess as infinitely superior to that of a princess of Orange. Even when her father's fortunes sank lower and lower during the Civil War, Mary still wished the Dutch to give him total support. William of Orange died young. Mary's only child — the future William III — was born after his death when she

was just 19. Typically, Mary wanted the boy to be named Charles, but the Dowager Princess of Orange insisted that it was an unlucky name, and so William it was.

In the course of time this young William of Orange was married to his first cousin, another Stuart princess named Mary, daughter of the future James II. Mary wept bitter tears when she saw it — as she was condemned — that she made her own

bridal journey from Portugal she had never even seen her future bridegroom. "But madam," replied Mary unanswerably, "you came into England; but I am going out of England." Little did Mary know that time's revolutions would bring Mary to occupy, jointly with William, her father's English throne.

In general, Plowden deploys her extensive knowledge of Tudor and Stuart times to provide a series of skilfully written studies for those who like to read historical stories fearing real princesses rather than fairy tales. But it has to be said that most of the stories are sad ones. Saddest of all is perhaps the fate of Elizabeth, daughter of Charles I, who died in captivity at Carisbrooke Castle, at the age of 15.

Yet few of the arranged royal marriages proved happy. However, one did turn into a love match: that was the union of James I's daughter Elizabeth and Frederick, the Elector Palatine. The Elector Palatine also bore an enormous family, most of whom survived. It is perhaps a good augury to reflect that the present Queen descends from this robust Elizabeth, rather than her more fragile cousins.

Deutsche!
Wehrt Euch!
kauf nicht bei Juden!



"Germans! Defend yourselves! Don't Shop with Jews!" Photographing those who break a boycott of Jewish stores in Berlin, 1938: the pictures would later be publicly displayed

nations, these are precisely the two who protected their Jews.

In an imaginative paragraph — one can only say a fantasy — he paints a picture of German killers walking through the woods next to children on the way to the killing ground. With what emotions, he asks, did these men gaze, say, at an eight or twelve-year-old girl ... a delicate little human being? As one reads this, one feels this is written by a man in an ivory tower who knows and understands nothing.

"There were so many children: did they ever make you think of your children, of how you would feel in the position of their parents?" I asked Franz Stangl, Commandant of Treblinka. He looked astonished at my question. "No," he said after some thought. "I can't say I ever thought that way. You see ... how can I explain ... I rarely saw them as individuals ... they were naked ... running ... driven with whips ..."

The method of depersonalising nudity, and running *en masse*, planned by monster psychologists in Berlin, worked only too well. Far from noticing any delicate little girls, the Jews, once undressed, ceased to be human beings for these German killers, who, in their mass orgies, ceased being individuals.

Mr Goldhagen is too intent on proving his preconceived and far too simplistic explanation for the murder

of the Jews: that they were killed, not because of Hitler's manic ideology and his extraordinary ability to convince his people that bad was good; and not because the Germans were slaves to authority and, with few exceptions, devoid of civic courage. The Jews died, he says, over and over again if repetition could make it so, because the majority of 60 million Germans wanted them dead, knew about the murders and took whatever part they could in them.

Countless historians and thinkers have shown over the past 50 years that, whatever the degree of anti-Semitism in Germany, such a totalistic notion is nonsense. But Goldhagen scores all of them. Youthfully dispensing criticism and advice as to how they could and should do better, he disregards the fundamentals of social and political analysis. "Stop referring to them as Nazis," he cries, and one senses his agony. "They were Germans, Germans, Germans. Can one write a book such as this in this degree of pain?

Worst of all, his thesis shows that he has not yet understood the truth history has proved: that murderous bigotry is not ingrained in the character of any one nation but is part of the human condition. It is not only young Germans who, as did happen after 1945, needed to be retaught humanity, but all our children, white, black, brown and yellow, need to learn this now and for evermore.

Fission reaction

Jasper Rees

PAGAN AND HER PARENTS
By Michael Arditti
Sinclair-Stevenson, £12.99



Arditti: familial subversion

Leo's father is ga-ga: Candida's bitter brother is in a wheelchair; Candida herself, after a lifetime of hectic sex, is claimed by motor neurone disease. And, as if our cup runneth not over, Pagan's father turns out to be a transsexual.

It turns out that Candida always resented her adoption, and spent her life madly subverting their petty bourgeois values (very occasionally she would also fitfully clothed). But Leo is benign, sociable, conciliatory, a well-liked television chat show host to boot, and probably too good to be true. Whatever, in his decency he can't see the harm in their request.

The saga that ensues comes with a health warning for all parents and guardians prone to panic attacks and night sweats. Pagan is separated from her one true, if not biological, parent by a Kafkaesque minefield of dread affidavits and furive intolerance, as the frostiness between the rival carers turns into cold war, then goes nuclear as ritual allegations of child abuse are traded. And although Leo casts the grandparents' suburban-Christian morality as a species of Gothic villainy, it's the homosexual to whom the mud sticks.

This is a manifesto for minorities, and true to the genre it sometimes makes exaggerated claims. Eager to prove that we can't all be able-bodied heteros, Arditti packs Pagan's world with characters subjected to discrimination because of what they do — or can't do — with their bodies.

There is light
Enoch Powell

THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES
Translated by Everett Fox
Harvill, £25

Ponderous, two inches thick, with heavily gilded edge, bottom and top, comes a daunting volume from the Director of the Jewish Studies Programme at Clark University at Worcester, Illinois; but those who open it must refuse to be daunted and allow themselves to be drawn on to read the old familiar works in a new dress.

In 1923 the German theologian Martin Buber, with his collaborator, Franz Rosenzweig, set out to present the first books of the Hebrew Bible with due attention to their linguistic character — as remote from that of our modern languages as poetry is from prose.

They could not therefore offer a comfortable read; but they believed they conveyed something important about the thought and expression of the authors who created the Torah. Everett Fox believed the same could be attempted in English, and he has done this in a new translation with introduction, commentary and notes.

The problem with the experiment is that radical English character which makes the Tyndale version that lies beneath the King James Bible a model of the tuning of the English tongue. It would be hard to find a language more remote from biblical Hebrew than English. The Hebrew Bible represents the resonance of Hebrew and Hebrew mode of expression, and to present a text in a form which reveals those characteristics causes difficulty in a work intended to be read aloud.

Unlike most new translations of the Bible, this one disdains to attempt to reflect contemporary usage of the English language. In particular, the traditional layout of the text in solid paragraphs is replaced in favour of displaying the natural pauses and breaks of recitation. The result is surprisingly enlightening, fascinating and satisfactory.

In the account of the creation, the Authorised Version runs: "And God said, let the waters bring forth abundantly, the moving creature that has life and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven."

The new translation runs: "God said

"Let the waters swarm with a swarm of living beings and let fowl fly above the earth across the dome of the heavens."

The translator believes that words have "lost their elemental meaning and in a way that the optimistic 19th century in which Buber and Rosenzweig worked could not have dared to believe. In this situation can a translation of ancient books, even though they are from the Bible, have anything to say or are they merely a 'voice from a dead man'? I use Kafka's mordant expression."

The reader who can afford this luxurious volume will find himself caught by the simplicities of it and will believe that, even in translation, there is a route through language to a comprehension of a different world.

Let's ration ourselves to one topographical nippick, advising the author never to show his face in West Acton, where he has chosen to relocate Wormwood Scrubs.

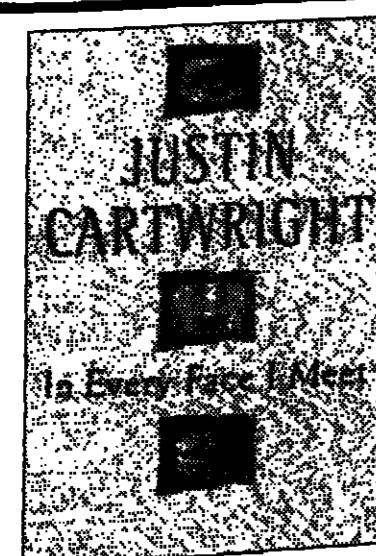
East Acton, meanwhile, can breathe a sigh of relief, and so can everyone by the end of the novel, whose shining virtue is its undemonstrative moral clearness. It should be required reading wherever the nuclear family is small-mindedly lauded as the true one ideal: a case of the unputdownable in pursuit of the unshakeable.

Dore's Adam and Eve

Justin Cartwright
IN EVERY FACE I MEET

'A brilliant and original book'

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH



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SCEPTRE

FOR THE second year running, a regular contributor to *The Times* Travel News pages has been named Business Travel Journalist of the Year in the *Business Travel World* awards. Tony Dawe received his prize at a ceremony in London last week. David Churchill won last year's award.

□ MANCHESTER airport has for the first time been named best in the world in an International Air Transport Association survey of 45,000 long-haul passengers.

□ THE CHALET girl is coming to the ski slopes of Chile. Passage to South America (0171-602 9889), of London, is to offer British skiers fully catered chalet holidays in La Parva, 25 miles from the capital, Santiago. The first departure will be on July 23.

□ THE Belgian Tourist Office in the UK has formed its own tour operator, Go Belgian (0171-491 1444), to capitalise on the short-breaks market. The Channel Tunnel, the growth of Eurostar rail services and a ferry and air price war encouraged an estimated 2.5 million couples to take a continental break last year.

£250m Australia tourism boost

By TONY DAWE

STENA Line and Hover-speed discounts for advanced bookings to France are due to finish this Sunday. Stena is cutting 25 to 40 per cent off published fares on its three routes from Dover, Newhaven and Southampton. The offers for travel until October 19, reduce peak crossing prices from £326 to £190 and off-peak from £218 to £159. Details: 0990 707070. Hover-speed is offering a flat rate £99 return for crossings after April 1 for a car and five adults from Folkestone to Boulogne and £129 from Dover to Calais. Details: 01304 204241.

□ LE SHUTTLE is cutting 20 per cent off all 1996 crossings. Bookings made by April 30 qualify for the discount. Details: 0990 353535.

□ IRISH Ferries has a £49 one-way fare for a car and up to five adults on its Pembroke-Rosslare route until May 22 for Monday to Thursday travel (excluding April 3 to 7). For Friday to Sunday trips, the fare is £59. Details: 0345 717171.

□ P&O European Ferries is offering £29 trips to Le Havre or Cherbourg from Portsmouth, based on two people with a car and including a three-course meal and a cabin on night sailings to Le Havre. For £39 per person, the company will add a night in a hotel. Details: 0990 980555.

WITH miles of open road and cars driving on the left, Australia and the tour operators which serve it have decided to target British holidaymakers eager to drive themselves as they try to maintain the boom in travel to the continent.

Self-drive holidays feature prominently for the first time in the new *Bridge the World* brochure to be launched in London tonight, while developing the state's roads forms the major part of a £250 million tourism investment programme announced by the Northern Territory.

"Just as Florida recognised the potential for fly-drive holidays instead of one or two-centre visits so, too, has Australia, with its miles of empty roads and vast tracts of country to explore," says Andrew Gregg, managing director of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission. says that the internal road system

is being upgraded to allow visitors to see the state's wide open spaces and learn more about its culture and natural history. The investment programme includes providing more rest, recreation and information along the roads as well as "theming" some of them like the classic American highways. The roads earmarked for improvement include the Stuart Highway and the Mereenie Loop road from Alice Springs to Ayers Rock and Kings Canyon through the West Macdonnell Ranges. Access to national parks will also be improved.

The tourism commission's target is to persuade visitors to spend longer in the state.

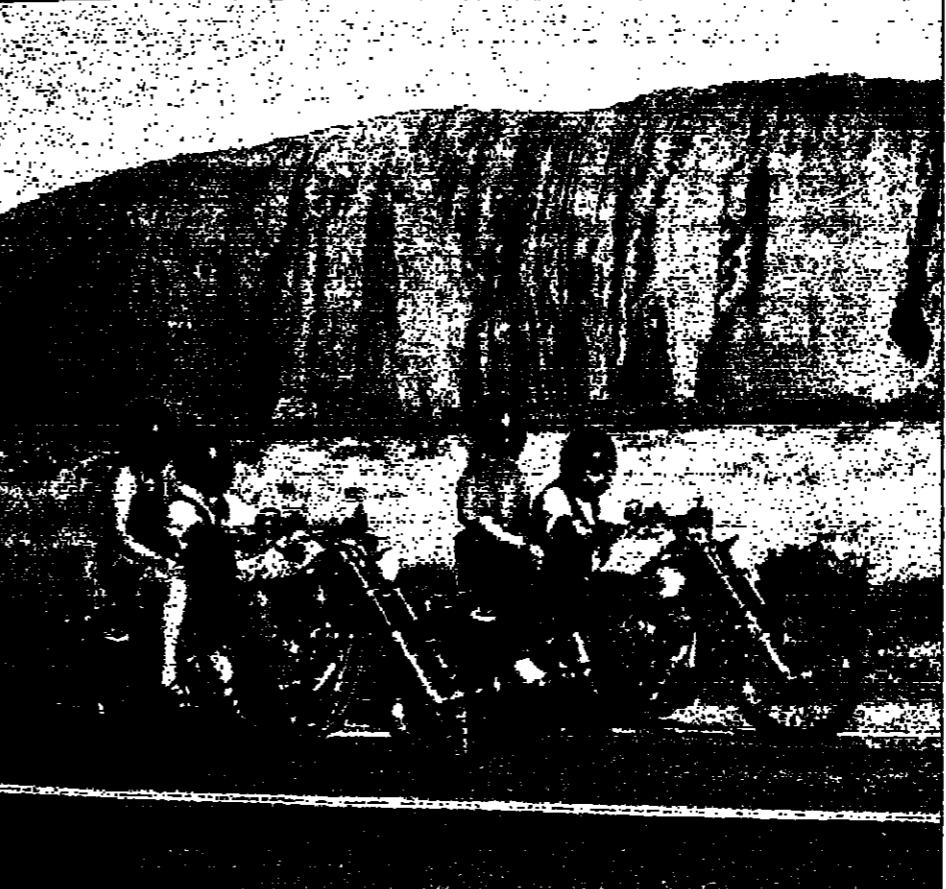
Britain is a vital market for Australia — 370,000 of us travelled there last year — and the campaign is aimed at consolidating that position. It will be boosted by a growth in air charter seats available to Australia next winter.



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area with visitors able to discover the southern and eastern seaboard from Adelaide to Cairns."

Andrew Gregg, managing director of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission, says that the internal road system



Biking by Ayers Rock: improving roads is on the Northern Territory's tourism agenda

Americans delighted to find somewhere to smoke

AMERICA'S newest airport has found that smokers know how to spend money. In the opening months at Denver International Airport, the most profitable of the vast complex's many bars was one that allowed people to smoke. It took more than \$1 million in its first ten months.

The figures make a mockery

of the controversy which arose over the presence of two smoking bars when the vast Denver International Airport, the most profitable of the vast complex's many bars was one that allowed people to smoke. It took more than \$1 million in its first ten months.

The figures make a mockery

powerful ventilation system which can change the air four times an hour. There is none of the fog that afflicts, say, the smoking carriages of British Rail trains. The Aviator's Club is also kitted out with leather chairs and a generous supply of ashtrays. It offers smokers

a guilt-free environment with the easy companionship of fellow devotees of the weed. The faces of those inside tend to reflect a mixture of defiance and relief.

Thirty per cent of American domestic air travellers smoke, while the figure for interna-

rooms for kids... They had all that figured out, but they were not addressing the needs of one-third of the people who go through the airport."

The very size of Denver International surely adds to passengers' anxiety. It is no place for tight connections. For transit passengers, the smoking bar can offer the only

friendly environment on a 12-hour journey. Mr Mostellar has proposed opening more smoking bars at Denver, and at other US airports, where anti-smoking regulations (as, for instance, at New York's JFK) are rigorously applied and can lead to scenes of tense non-comprehension by foreign travellers.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Britain's travellers are upwardly mobile

THE WAY Britain takes a holiday is undergoing one of its periodic upheavals. The first signs appeared a few months ago when the number of customers booking a foreign package holiday fell sharply. Many in the industry assumed this would be temporary, something that could be cured cutting the number of holidays offered. I refused to believe that the two-week family package had had its day. But it is now clear that the wealthy, independent and more demanding are once again setting a trend

that will inevitably trickle down the social pyramid.

In the short-term, the number of people taking foreign package holidays will continue to fall, particularly at the bottom end of the market.

Those who do travel abroad, however, will demand ever higher standards, rather than lower prices. They will refuse to be cajoled into early booking but will follow the continental pattern of deciding at the last moment where to go. They will travel further and stay for shorter periods while spending

just as much as, if not more than, they did before.

Figures compiled by the British travel trade show that bookings for European package holidays are 20 per cent lower than they were this time last year. And, the experts say, by the end of the summer only eight million people will have taken a package holiday this year, down two million from 1995.

However, while the Mediterranean has slumped, there has been a rise in expensive long-haul

holidays, in the use of business class and in expensive villas, castles and hotels. The statistics were brought to life for me last weekend.

During the outward journey to St Malo and the return from Caen, the Brittany Ferries ship was comfortably

half full with couples who preferred to eat in the ship's best, and expensive, restaurant. Most were staying for two nights in chateaux rather than in cheap hotels or on campsites. On the car decks, Range Rovers were more in evidence than Ford Fiestas.

On the way back the head of a small tour operator said: "The only people travelling now are the rich. They are affected by the franc fort or the high prices in France. They are now able to relax in towns and resorts that are no longer dominated by pack-

aged masses crammed into cheap gift shops."

This is why Majorca is blowing up its ugly concrete hotels, why Thomson is selling "city breaks" again, why those operators that aim to sell to the richest 4 per cent of the travelling public have never had it so good and why the French believe that their tourist fortunes are about to change.

Those who thought that cutting prices – and so often quality – would bring customers back are about to be proved spectacularly wrong.



A NEW monthly column supplied the worldwide security and detection agency.

HIGH RISK

ONLY essential travel is recommended in Guatemala. In the capital, Guatemala City, there are some four kidnappings and ten car thefts a day, despite a heavy troop presence. The situation may improve in future, however, as a temporary ceasefire has been announced by the country's three major guerrilla groups.

Colombia is also considered a high-risk area, with the National Liberation Army (ELN) holding hostage a Briton, a Dane and a German, all reportedly alive and well. The rural-based ELN periodically kidnaps foreign employees of large corporations and demands sizeable ransoms. Parcel bombs have been sent to two foreign missions recently. Internal travel by air is advised. Visitors travelling by road should take advice from the Embassy and local authorities beforehand.

In Iran, tension has been increased by accusations from the US and elsewhere that Iran is supporting the suicide bombers in Israel. In Gaza, Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, is believed to have been responsible for three of the recent bombings. Travellers to Israel would be well advised to wait until after the elections on May 29, and to avoid public transport.

The risk to travellers in the Indian-ruled area of Kashmir is high, with increasing conflict between police and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), while two recent bombs in Lahore underline the dangers of travelling in Pakistan.

In Nigeria ethnic fighting continues and disease, especially meningitis, is a serious risk. The World Health Organisation also notes deadly contagious diseases in the Sahel region of Zaire. Travel in Rwanda is not recommended either, with Hutu rebels involved in recent shootings.

Mozambique is considered high risk following a riot by unemployed former soldiers there on March 19.

EXTREME RISK

MILITANT groups pose a constant threat in Algeria, where non-essential travel is not advised. The GIA (Armed Islamic Group) recently exploded a vehicle bomb in Berbera, and there has been shooting in the Hassi Massoud oil region and in Algiers.

Also dangerous is Sri Lanka, with a continuing threat from the Tamil Tigers. 300 of whom ambushed an army unit last weekend. Somalia has seen an increased number of kidnappings – and in the absence of proper government or police, more are likely.

• Pinkerton 01420 544024.

Football fever hits tour firms

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

FOOTBALL fans planning to stay at home to watch Euro 96 – the European championship to be played at grounds across England in June – were last night blamed by tour operators for triggering a new holiday price war.

Those with no interest in soccer, however, could benefit by taking advantage of half-price packages available throughout the tournament. Tens of thousands of early summer holidays, which tour operators had hoped to sell at the full brochure price, will now be on sale at discounts of up to 50 per cent.

The first tour operator to move was Cosmos, the fourth biggest, which still has 30,000 unsold holidays in June.

"We were not prepared to be left with unsold holidays at the last moment" said Roger Corkhill, managing director. "When we looked at our position in June we decided to make the discounts available."

Noel Josephides of Sunvill Holidays, said: "There is no doubt that the forthcoming European championship has affected the lower end of the market and that creeps up through the entire spectrum. Although June is especially bad, the normal booking rhythm is just not there at all this year. The Mediterranean is between 23 and 24 per cent down on this time last year although many long-haul destinations are still selling well."

Cosmos has cut the price of holidays in hotels featured in its Summer Sun. Greece, Turkey and Florida brochures and has also discounted packages to more exotic destinations such as Mexico, China and the Caribbean.

A holiday for a family of four in the Salou Pacific Apartments on the Costa Dorada from June 18 – the day England play Holland at Wembley – will now cost £456 for 14 nights compared with the brochure price of £997. Other reductions are available at nearly 140 hotels and apartments in 27 destinations.

Peter Rothwell, managing director of Airtours said: "June is a real problem but it would be disappointing to see a really big tour operator such as us not holding our nerves. There is almost certainly going to be discounting among smaller companies."

Tour operators generally have reduced the number of holidays on sale throughout the summer by about 15 per cent in the hope that the remaining eight million can be sold at or near full price.

The question now is whether that is going to be enough" said Mr Corkhill. "Demand remains stagnant and there is no indication that things will get any better."

For the whole of the summer about five million holidays have been sold leaving some three million on agents shelves. August has sold well and tour operators are confident that they will be able to sell all those available during the school holiday peak. But the doubts remain.

France slips in caravan league

BY STEVE KEENAN

BRITAIN's caravan holiday-makers are avoiding France to take the high road to other European destinations this summer. Camping operators are slashing prices as sales to France continue to trail 30 per cent below the same period last year.

In 1995, traditional enclaves such as Brittany, the Dordogne and the Vendée dominated the list of top holiday spots for 40,000 families who booked their holiday abroad with The Caravan Club.

In total, 18 of the 20 most popular destinations were in France, with French caravan sites filling the top seven places. But bookings so far to 1996 show only one French site in the top five, Royan in Charente-Maritime, which has held on to the No. 1 slot from last year.

A site in Holland has leapt into 2nd place, while other new favourites include Spain, Ireland, Germany and Italy.

The slump in demand for France reflects a fall of 30 per cent in all holidays to the

country this year. And people are travelling for shorter breaks, said Arlene Spicer, product manager for the Caravan Club's travel service.

The annual two-to-three week holiday has become less popular. Members are taking shorter breaks, perhaps two or three times a year, to destinations other than France.

Two caravan sites in Ireland and two in Spain feature in the 1996 top ten, with two in Italy and one in Germany also making the top 20.

Top ten caravan sites so far for 1996:

1. Royan, Charente-Maritime, France
2. Rijnsburg, Holland
3. Co Kerry, Ireland
4. Costa Brava, Spain
5. Noya, northern Spain
6. Le Pas Opton, Vendée, France
7. Co Wicklow, Ireland
8. Camping du Bohat, Brittany, France
9. Les Sables d'Olonne, Vendée, France
10. Atlantic Coast, France



Aung San Suu Kyi: champion of the democracy movement and Nobel Peace Prize winner

Visitors urged to boycott Burma

TOURISTS were yesterday urged to boycott Burma in protest at the ruling military junta's abuse of human rights. Harvey Elliott writes.

Labour's shadow foreign minister Derek Fatchett described the Burmese State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) which had designated 1996 as Visit Burma Year as "evil".

"The regime is clearly one of the worst in the world. The development of the tourist industry has been at a price to the local community which every decent person would regard as unacceptable. I would strongly urge tourists to think carefully before booking a holiday in Burma."

The Burma Action Group, which is pressing for the restoration of human rights in the country, launched a "Alternative Guide" to the region in which they claim that the main tourism developments are being carried out by up to two million "slave labourers", including children.

Thousands of ordinary people are being forcibly removed from their homes to clean up tourist sites or to make way for new developments, it claims.

Yvette Mahon, co-ordinator of the group said: "By visiting Burma now people are lending legitimacy to a cruel and greedy military dictatorship."

The 38 British tour operators who organise visits to Burma were also urged to drop it from their brochures, or at least to explain to potential customers what was happening in the country at another meeting held yesterday by Tourism Concern.

But most are convinced they should not become involved. "We do not get involved in politics," said Alan Flock, secretary general of the Federation of Tour Operators. "Members of the public must make up their own minds where they want to go."

About 2,000 Britons visited Burma last year out of a total of 95,600 foreign tourists.

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Jill Crawshaw on the new ferry to Dieppe, plus getting the best out of Normandy

Robin Neillands in South Africa

Introducing Britain's Legoland

How to spoil the Caribbean

Kenya spreads its attractions

BY TONY DAWNE

A NEW plan to encourage tourist development to spread throughout Kenya beyond the most popular national parks and short strips of coastline was announced yesterday.

David Western, director of Kenya Wildlife Service, told a meeting in London that "spreading the load" is vital if the country's landscape and animal life are to survive the continuing growth in tourism.

Travel companies are to be encouraged to be more imaginative in the choice of tours they offer while the service is negotiating with private landowners in lesser-known areas to persuade them to provide new lodges and tented camps for visitors.

Around 680,000 tourists went to Kenya last year, with four out of five going to see the wildlife, and as the figures increase officials warn that the principal national parks can comfortably handle only 750,000 visitors a year.

The key word is diversity, whether tourists are interested in wildlife, landscape, culture or history," Dr Western said. Most tourists think of the Masai Mara, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru as the obvious

national parks to visit on safari and want to see "the big five" animals (elephants, lions, leopards, buffalo and rhinoceros).

"But Kenya has far more to offer with 34 parks and reserves including six marine ones and they contain only 10 per cent of the country's total wildlife," Dr Western added.

"For example, the Central Moorlands, with 1,000ft waterfalls, contains the bonobo, a rare forest antelope, as well as giant forest hogs and a wealth of elephants. The tropical Kakamega Forest is home to many rare primates, butterflies and birds and Hell's Gate, only an hour from Nairobi, offers a vast geological amphitheatre and lush gorges."

The service acts as the custodian of all wildlife in the country, as well as managing the parks and reserves, and ploughs all the money raised from tourism back into conservation. Through a newly created tourism department, it also meets landowners and helps them to find the funds and form legal associations to build tented camps and eco-tourist lodges.

THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFER



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The stump in demand for France reflects a fall of 30 per cent in all holidays to the

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THE TIMES THURSDAY MARCH 28 1996

RACING 43

United States has clean sweep in first running of Dubai World Cup

Cigar adds courage to list of virtues

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
IN DUBAI

A STUNNING duel up the home straight at Nad Al Sheba racetrace was settled only in the dying strides yesterday when Cigar inched ahead of Soul Of The Matter to claim the inaugural Dubai World Cup. It was a display of raw courage from a flawless thoroughbred.

Cigar arrived in the desert with plenty to lose. But he departs this land of paradoxes having enhanced his reputation with a below-par performance.

BIG-RACE RESULT

3.00 DUBAI WORLD CUP
(£1,548,387; 1m 2f dist)
1. CIGAR (J. Bailey), 2. Soul Of The Matter (G. Stevens), 3. L'Camere (J. Chavas) ALSO RAN Pentire (4th)
Tazza (5th), Livelong (6th),
Needle Gun (7th), Terminal (8th),
Lanocha (9th), Darwain (10th),
Halling (11th), and 11. Bl. W. Mott (US)
2min 03 84seconds

mance. In 13 successive victories in the United States, Cigar has never been extended to the limits of his endurance. He was on this occasion, and the size of his heart more than compensated for an interrupted physical preparation in advance of this race.

Bill Mott, whose handling of Cigar has been exemplary, amplified the point in the moment of victory. "We have often wondered what would happen when a horse came up to him and looked him straight in the eye," Mott said. "Today we found out. I was counting the days he missed training through his injured foot when the other horse came at him, but he was never going to get in front. It proves how great my horse really is."

So rapidly did Soul Of The Matter progress to Cigar's flanks two furlongs out that it seemed inevitable his momentum would sweep him to an improbable victory. But Cigar would not lie down. As Pentire, who tracked Cigar from the start, found the



Bailey shows his delight as Cigar fends off Soul Of The Matter to land the Dubai World Cup at Nad Al Sheba yesterday

intensity of the struggle beyond him, the two protagonists surged clear.

Cigar wavered for a stride or two inside the final furlong. "I actually got past him," said Gary Stevens, who rode the runner-up. "It is quite some time since that happened to Cigar but that's when he showed his personality and guts. I've never been so proud in defeat."

This \$4 million international contest proved a triumph for the United States, whose three runners filled the first three places.

Pentire, representing Britain, threatened briefly on the outer but faded to finish an excellent fourth. Needle Gun was seventh.

But the home defence, comprising a quartet from Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin sta-

ble, never made an impression. Tamaya performed respectably in fifth but Torrential, Larocha and Halling were prevented from filling the last three places by Danewin, the Australian challenger, who finished tenth in the field of 11.

If Cigar's domination of his

contemporaries brooks no argument, few can now dispute his right to join the all-time greats. This triumph, under floodlights on an alien surface in a distant land, has secured that status. Indeed, the six-year-old now has Citation's winning streak well within his sights. Winner of the Ameri-

can Triple Crown in 1948, Citation registered 16 consecutive victories.

Indeed, who is to say Cigar might not have won the Triple Crown had he raced on dirt in his youth? He was switched from a turf surface only 18 months ago, long after his age disqualification him from contest-

ing the American classics. At that point, Cigar had registered just one victory from 11 starts. Now he boasts 15 from 16 outings on dirt, most in the highest class. What's more, he has exported his message outside the United States.

Indeed, who is to say Cigar might not have won the Triple Crown had he raced on dirt in his youth? He was switched from a turf surface only 18 months ago, long after his age disqualification him from contest-

ing the American classics. At that point, Cigar had registered just one victory from 11 starts. Now he boasts 15 from 16 outings on dirt, most in the highest class. What's more, he has exported his message outside the United States.

It required a considerable act of faith for Mott and Allen Paulson, who own the horse, to travel Cigar 7,000 miles from his home to a venue unproven in the international arena. But Paulson has always been blessed with an innovative spirit.

"Even when it got tight I still thought he would win," Paulson said of Cigar. "Whether he goes, this horse is a true champion. As long as he's healthy we'll shoot for the moon." There may not be a horse to beat him, even there.

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Richards' realistic hopes of registering his third

National success after Lucius (1978) and Hallo Dandy (1984).

But Aintree was bathed in

sunshine yesterday and the going was changed to good. Richards said: "It doesn't look like Tantan Tyrant is going to run. We need some rain for him but none is forecast."

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On a quiet bettng day

Scotland indebted to Stillie's resistance

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SIMON DONNELLY, the Celtic forward whose goal on Tuesday night earned Scotland a place in the semi-finals of the European under-21 championship, yesterday singled out the team's goalkeeper, Derek Stillie, as playing the crucial role in the dramatic victory at Easter Road.

After Donnelly's 86th-minute strike, Hungary hurled a mass of players forward in search of a decisive away goal, creating a chance for Kristian Lister that was repelled in spectacular fashion by Stillie, the Aberdeen goalkeeper. "It was probably the best save I have ever seen," Donnelly said. "They really went for it but we managed to hang on and we all owe Derek a big thank you."

The save was made all the sweeter for Stillie after his experience in the first leg in Budapest, when he was pelted with tomatoes as the home supporters celebrated a 2-1 win. Donnelly's goal on Tuesday had put Scotland 3-1 ahead on the night and 4-3 up on aggregate.

"It was the best save I've made in my career so far," Stillie said. "I had to push Scott Marshall out of the way when the player lined up the shot and thankfully I just managed to get my hand to the ball and stop it on the line."

Scotland had been made to battle all the way after Gabor Egressy had extended the visitors' first-leg advantage in the first half. That they succeeded was a testament to a quality that left their coach, Tommy Craig, almost breathless with excitement and admiration.

"Words almost fail me," he said. "I've got to say I had almost given up hope of us getting a goal when it was 1-1 with a few minutes to go but I should have known better where this team is concerned. We didn't play our most fluent football but we ground out a

result against a very good Hungarian side, who hadn't lost away from home in their group."

"We are in the last four for the second time in four years and I don't see why we can't go all the way. The further you go the harder it gets obviously but this squad keeps meeting challenges."

His confidence is founded on a record that includes eight victories in their past nine championship games, the sort of form that will send them to the finals tournament — to be held in Spain or the Czech Republic in May — in optimistic mood.

Donnelly matched Craig's enthusiasm. "I don't see why we shouldn't go all the way in the tournament," he said. "We have put a tremendous run together as a squad and even when we don't play to our best, as happened against Hungary, we still seem to pull out a result."

"We certainly won't fear anyone in the last four and it is an end to the season which we will all be looking forward to."

"When we made it 2-1 I was thinking we would be going into extra time but then the chance came along and my shot beat the keeper. Scoring a late winner to take your team through is the kind of thing you dream about and it is probably the most important goal of my career so far."

His goal came two minutes after Jim Hamilton, of Dundee, a substitute, had made the score 2-1. Lajos Szucs, the Hungary goalkeeper, had threatened to make it a frustrating night with a series of second-half saves after Christian Dally, of Dundee United, had given Scotland a 2-0 lead.

As the name suggests, Football Football is not to be confused with American-style sports bars. "In America, there are four equal sports," Keetch said. "We went for football only, because it's our most popular sport by a long way. We want this to be a natural forum for all sorts of football occasions, and so far we've had a phenomenal response."

Former professional footballers running licensed premises?

Nothing unusual about that, surely. However, the involvement of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), the players' union, in Football Football, a new theme restaurant in Haymarket, in central London, marks the entry of the footballer-turned-virtual into a wider world.

Football's answer to Planet Hollywood and the Hard Rock Cafe was conceived when Gordon Taylor, the chairman of the PFA, mentioned to Bobby Keetch, the entrepreneur and former Fulham defender, that considerable stocks of memorabilia were building up. What was to be done with it all?

Rejecting a static, museum-style presentation, Keetch and Terry McQuade, formerly with Millwall, put together plans for a high-profile food, drink and entertainment venue.

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Inquiries have been received from Madrid, Barcelona, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro about the possibility of Football Football franchises.

"This, for us, not only celebrates football, but also gives us an income and a higher profile," Brian Marwood, the commercial director of the PFA, said. "People are happy to take money from football, but any profits from the PFA's involvement will be returned into the game at all levels — youth training, helping former players, even bailing out clubs that can't pay wages."

Marwood also hopes that Football Football will provide an overdue point of contact between players and supporters. The PFA connection should guarantee regular appearances by leading personalities from the sport.

What, then, will those supporters experience? For one thing, no parochial set-pieces celebrating Arsenal or Manchester United — or Crewe Alexandra or Rochdale, for that matter. "Football is bigger than individual clubs," Keetch said. "We won't

be selling their shirts or merchandising; we are selling a bigger concept, international and themed around the major competitions."

Not surprisingly, will there be live televised matches. "We are not in an American situation," Keetch said. "People there can watch events in the company of rivals and there will be no trouble. Here, things are different."

In other words, any "laddish" threat to the desired family atmosphere is definitely to be discouraged.

The customer will enter through a players' tunnel, to the roar of a canned crowd and the sound of stads. After ordering from a menu that includes dishes recommended by well-known gourmets such as Lee Sharpe and Keith Gillespie (George Best, who will be a permanent animatronic presence, endorses a cocktail), he or she will have no shortage of things to look at while waiting.

Despite the absence of live coverage, a selection of memorable football moments will run continuously on 34 screens, and the memorabilia are awe-inspiring. If Geoff Hurst's 1966 World

Cup winners' medal is not sufficient, then material donated by Best, Eusebio and Alfredo di Stefano should be.

An upstairs mezzanine dubbed "The Fifa Room" even includes the chair in which João Havelange, the president of the sport's world governing body, rubber-stamped some of the innovations that have made the game what it is today — the penalty shoot-out, for example, and the Diadora League's kick-in experiment.

The sense of a shrine to football is heightened by a stained glass window depicting the 1966 England team: Hollywood-style footprints of players in concrete add a touch of showbiz.

Keetch has no doubts that Football Football will be a success, both as a place of entertainment for the customer, casual or committed, and an enterprise to boost the PFA's finances and profile.

"The PFA says to its members: 'Here is something for all of you that you can be proud of,'" he said. "Players will want to come, and will see it as a way to help to prevent the poor from going to the wall. I believe in the PFA. We want to boost the image of the soccer pro, show that footballers are willing to put something back into the game."

Botha banned

Boxing: The International Boxing Federation's decision to allow Frans Botha, of South Africa, to keep his heavyweight title after testing positive for steroids was overturned by a judge in Newark, New Jersey yesterday. The judgment also ordered that Axel Schulz, of Germany, should box Michael Moorer for the title.

Nielsen blow

Badminton: Anders Nielsen, the English national champion, seems certain to miss out on a place in the Olympic Games. Nielsen has cysts in both knees that will require an operation next month.

Brown's feat

Athletics: Sandra Brown, who last year ran from John o' Groats to Land's End, yesterday completed 1,000 miles on a track in Australia. She took 14 days 10 hours 27 minutes, including time for sleeping.

Customers enjoy the conviviality of Football Football, where George Cohen's 1966 World Cup final shirt adorns one of the showcases

Dining out on a slice of nostalgia

Football memorabilia go on display in London's latest theme restaurant. Nick Szczepanik reports

FOR THE RECORD

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First real test as new season starts to swing

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN PONTE VEDRA BEACH

THE American professional golf season got underway early in January in California and the European tour swung into action in Singapore a few weeks later. However, starting here in Florida this morning, on a course ripped out of marshland and swamps and ruffed by winds off the Atlantic, is the first event of the year that truly unites the leading competitors from both tours. It is The Players' Championship and it is acceptable to describe it as the game's fifth most important tournament.

A sign greets you within moments

of stepping off the aircraft at Jacksonville airport. It reads: "The Players' Championship. The Greatest Field in Golf". It is not far wide of the mark.

Even after the withdrawal of Bernhard Langer, with a shoulder injury, the absence of José María Olazábal — about whom a decision will be made today as to whether he plays next week in Atlanta and in the US Masters the week after — and the absence of a couple of other leading players, the field comprises more than 40 of the world's leading 50 competitors, including six of the Europe and 11 of the US Ryder Cup teams. They are competing for a first prize of £420,000 and a purse of £2.3m, the largest on the US tour.

Roe sees need to move mountains

FROM MEL WEBB IN MADEIRA

FROM the ruins of a 1995 season that saw Mark Roe slide helplessly out of control to the lowest point of his professional golf career, and also reach the low-water mark in his personal life, came one huge consolation. His appearance in the Madeira Island Open, which starts at Santa da Serra here today, is his last before he makes his first appearance in the Masters in two weeks.

Roe admitted only recently that the break-up of his marriage had led him seriously to contemplate suicide. On the course he was guilty of some wildly aberrant behaviour and was disciplined by the PGA European Tour. Always an extrovert and lively character, he was on the brink of becoming an ill-balanced eccentric.

Yet in the midst of all that was crumbling about him, he managed to pull himself round and finish thirteenth in the US Open at Shinnecock Hills, making him the best-placed Briton in the championship. It was that performance that has earned him a place at Augusta; but although delighted to be invited, the niggling feeling within a heart that sometimes seems to process a million thoughts a second is that he does not deserve the honour.

"I was 126th in the order of merit in the midst of all my troubles last year," he said. "I'm looking forward to going.

but I know within my own mind that I deserve it a lot less than when I finished ninth in the money-list in 1994."

That only the winner of the Open Championship gets in while the top 15 in the US Open are invited seems utterly ridiculous to me."

Roe would do well to mind what he says about the men who run the Masters. The good ol' boys down in Georgia do not take kindly to criticism, no matter how well-intended.

Roe will take with him a new driver, a huge metal-headed job that has only 0.5° of loft — "my putter's got more loft than that," he joked. He also bears with him to Augusta the advice and encouragement of one Severiano Ballesteros.

"Saw me practising in Dubai and told me to stand up more to the ball," he said. "He told me that I was a feel player and that's what I should rely on. Coming from the greatest feel player of all time, that was quite something."

Meanwhile, there is the small matter of the next four days to be negotiated over a course that climbs and swoops through dramatically hilly terrain more than 2,000 feet above sea level.

Roe claimed, tongue firmly in cheek, to like the layout. "It's probably the best course Chris Bonington's ever designed." Whatever else, he has obviously not lost his sense of humour.



Roe will seek to end his spectacular decline in Madeira before the Masters in two weeks

SPORTS LETTERS

Centre of rugby excellence

From the Headmaster of Colston's Collegiate School Sir, Your report on the Daily Mail under-18 rugby cup final (Sport in Schools, March 25) raised the question of sports scholarships.

Colston's Collegiate won a fairly contested final 20-0 and played in a manner which should give heart to all England rugby supporters. The boys have spent a great deal of time practising their skills and have gelled into an effective unit thanks to the inspired coaching of Alan Martinovic and Andy Robinson.

Of those who played in the final, four pupils joined the sixth form from maintained schools which do not have sixth forms. Four others joined from local maintained schools, who play much less rugby than boys at Colston's are lucky enough to experience. The remainder of the team was composed of pupils who have come through the school in the normal way. Jonathan Pritchard and Joseph Ewens, who have been selected to play for England against Scotland, were in the lower school, which admits children from the age of three.

The boys who joined us in the sixth form did so because they wanted to come to a

centre of rugby excellence. They had to fulfil the academic criteria for the sixth form, and those who came from homes where there was not enough income to cover the whole of the school fees were either awarded a Government Assisted Place or a school bursary. We do not offer sports scholarships, which would, anyway, be awarded regardless of parental income.

The Headmaster of QEGS Wakefield is quoted as saying that he favours all-rounders. The pupils in Colston's first XV are like any other group of people of their age. Anyone

who saw the immense amount of work put in by some of them on the stage, or backstage, at the last school play or observed the quality of some of their art work, amongst other things, could not have failed to appreciate that they had more than one talent.

As has been observed by others, the southern hemisphere is not afraid of winning and the English like nothing better than trying to deny the successful the credit that is rightly theirs.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID CRAWFORD,

Headmaster,

Colston's Collegiate School,

Stapleton, Bristol, Avon.

Eyes on the ball in Sri Lanka

From Mr J. Garner

Sir, While on vacation in Sri Lanka I watched its cricket side on television achieve a convincing win over England in the World Cup.

Between overs I looked out of the hotel window and saw boys and girls aged from about 18 to 18 playing cricket like English boys used to in the park. There could be 15 to 20 youngsters fielding to one batsman at one wicket.

I was impressed by the ability of the children to time and middle the ball and

thought that here were the makings of fine cricketers.

I offer two thoughts: English boys are proficient at amazingly fast finger reactions to two-dimensional video games but lack the timing of an eye used to three-dimensional activity; we do not have all-weather surfaces in our parks to replace the street games we used to enjoy before the motor car put a stop to them.

Yours faithfully,

J. GARNER,

44 Ladman Road,

Bristol 14, Avon.

players, including Rob Subbiani, who this season played for the Barbarians.

I resent the charge of nepotism. Since I have been coach the first team has always been picked on ability. Junior should also remember that, even after he made himself unavailable to play rugby, he was allowed to use, free of charge, the weight-training facilities at Askeans. This does not reflect the comment that his face did not fit.

Yours sincerely,

STEVE HILL (1st XV coach,

Askeans RFC 1991-96),

20 Glynde Road,

Bexleyheath, Kent.

Unfair comments

From Mr Steven Hill

Sir, It was with much surprise and some anger that I read the comments of the new London Broncos signing, Junior Paul, about Askeans (report, March 26). When he came to Askeans he was very inexperienced and we were happy to help him in learning about rugby. He undoubtedly had much potential but due to work and study he did not train regularly and was not always available on Saturdays. At that time, in Junior's chosen position of wing, we possessed three Kent county

players, including Rob Subbiani, who this season played for the Barbarians.

I resent the charge of nepotism. Since I have been coach the first team has always been picked on ability. Junior should also remember that, even after he made himself unavailable to play rugby, he was allowed to use, free of charge, the weight-training facilities at Askeans. This does not reflect the comment that his face did not fit.

Yours sincerely,

STEVE HILL (1st XV coach,

Askeans RFC 1991-96),

20 Glynde Road,

Bexleyheath, Kent.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY The notice to the public of the dissolution of DOLMORE GROUP LIMITED has been served. DOLMORE GROUP LIMITED has terminated its authority to act as liquidator of the company. DOLMORE GROUP LIMITED is limited by guarantee and has no assets. It has no authority to act in any manner. DOLMORE GROUP LIMITED, New Zealand Limited

LEGAL NOTICES

DOLMORE LIMITED LATCHFORD WINE HOLDINGS LIMITED MAISON CHINETTE HOLDINGS LIMITED DOLMORE GROUP LIMITED (All Receivership) Notice is hereby given that A W Bunting and P J Sturz, Arthur Andersen, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 0EP, Administrators of the above Receivers of the above companies on behalf of the National Westminster Bank PLC, dated 28th day of March 1996, a Managing Joint Administrative Receiver

LEGAL NOTICES

TO COLIN JOHN HAWKINS, 100 HAGLEY SERVICES LIMITED, HAGLEY, BALTIC MANAGEMENT LTD, IN BANKRUPTCY SECTION 295 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 TAKE NOTICE THAT I, David John Hawkins, of the above address, have filed against you, that you may be liable to pay to the liquidator of the company, the sum of £11,000 on 4 April 1996, and that I, David John Hawkins, of the above address, was appointed as Trustee in Bankruptcy on 1 March 1996, and that I, David John Hawkins, of the above address, was appointed as liquidator on 19 March 1996, DATED THIS 22 day of MARCH 1996 D J HAWKINS TRUSTEES IN BANKRUPTCY LTD, RECEIVERS & LIQUIDATORS IN INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 TAKE NOTICE THAT I, David John Hawkins, of the above address, was appointed as Trustee in Bankruptcy on 1 March 1996, and that I, David John Hawkins, of the above address, was appointed as liquidator on 19 March 1996, DATED THIS 22 day of MARCH 1996 D J HAWKINS TRUSTEES IN BANKRUPTCY LTD, RECEIVERS & LIQUIDATORS IN INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 TAKE NOTICE 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Absence makes the heart grow acceptable

Each year my resistance to *Hearts of Gold* (BBC1) grows a little less. As another 12 months pass in which I have done nothing good and certainly nothing heroic, my admiration for the gallant hero who have increases once again. But let me be clear — this twin-track transformation is gradual, very gradual. At current rates, I calculate that I won't start really enjoying this sickly sweet celebration of good deeds until I am 147 years old. Esther Rantzen, I feel certain, will still be around — wearing something imprudently short and cerise.

She was similarly equipped last night, as she kicked off the series where equal helpings of admiration and nausea have become very much the norm. But there was nothing "norm" about the way it began. Having swapped her suit for a pair of generously cut plastic over-trousers, Rantzen appeared to

be engaged in an unspeakable act with a gentleman in a golf bunker. All totally innocent — pause for laughter — we were assured, practising her swing don'tcha know, but those of us reared on a diet of cheap laughs at the expense of misshapen vegetables knew better. My how I've learned.

And my how La Rantzen was enjoying herself. She wiggled her bottom playfully and begged impishly: "Once more, once more?" Our gallant, unspectacular, life-saving, torry driver (for it was he) bravely stepped forward and assumed the position again. Now this was brave, very heroic stuff. I was about to rush forward and pin a small piece of blue ribbon with a little gold heart on him myself.

Then suddenly I remembered — this wasn't the heroic act, this was the ruse — the ruse which no self-respecting light entertainment show (*This is Your Life, Surprise Surprise* and anything with Jere-

my Beadle or Noel Edmonds) is currently without. "Have you heard of a programme called *Hearts of Gold*?" asked Rantzen at regular intervals. "No," I shouted, "just say no." But each time the heroic victim's response was the same — a shrug, a baleful look skyward and a weary "yes". Gorilla, I believe, is the technical term.

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REVIEW



Matthew Bond

S one of the ruses were hideously complicated, which allowed Carol Smillie (wearing something fashionably knee-length and sky blue) to step smugly forward and say "this was not as easy as it sounds" at similarly regular intervals. It also led to me spending several minutes under the impression that it was Mr Motivator who had spent three months in a coma. What an absurd thought.

But, three times a night, order is restored. Those who have done the life-saving sit on one side of the

long as they keep serving up the excruciating bits in-between. I think I can hold out for another decade or seven.

If the Mr UK competition did not exist, then it would not be long before a producer from *Modern Times* (BBC2) came along and invented it. On paper it looked perfect, a sign of our egalitarian, role-reversed times — lots of bronzed male bodies parading in front of drooling, cheering women. In reality, as producer Helen Appio discovered, it was definitely a sock or two short of a well-filled thong.

"What are they going to do?" asked a disbelieving and bitter Ann Prance (Miss World 1964). "Prance down the planks in G-strings?" Yup, that was pretty much it — which left Appio with a lot of time to fill.

Round and round she went in ever diminishing interviews — knucklehead, Sidney. Eric Morley.

another knucklehead (I mean contestant, not organiser), Frank Warren, Judith Chalmers. But it's a reliable rule of documentary-making that when the interviewee talking most sense is Michael Winner, you know you are in trouble.

Appio's efforts to fill the gaps between the defiantly ungay and frankly uninteresting badging of the contestants merely served as a reminder that there were better documentaries to be made. What happens to former Miss Worlds, for instance, or the life and times of the incredible and indestructible Morleys.

For the former she was half-way there already, with a well-chosen trio of beauty queens — the cynical Sidney, the wise and wonderful Reita Powell (Miss World 1966) and game for a laugh former Miss Puerto Rico (Miss World 1975). "It changed completely my life," said

the winsome Wilnelia. She was right — she married Bruce Forsyth.

For anyone thinking of tackling the Morley story, here is a tip. Everybody needs a pair of mid-calf socks. He may know a well-turned ankle when he sees one, but as last night's interviews revealed he certainly does not possess them.

Finally, Pete McCarthy brought *Travelog* (Channel 4) to a close with the sort of "holiday" I could identify with. He was ill, he was miserable and he was reluctantly hopping around Laos in an elderly Russian helicopter. But unlike me in such situations, he had not quite lost his sense of humour. Afflicted with both bronchitis and Luan Prabang belly, he ventured bravely forth in a motorised rickshaw, or *tuk-tuk* — "named after the cough it induces in passengers as they ingest large quantities of road". A heart of gold is already on its way.

CHOICE

3D TV, 7.30pm

Two former Church of England priests have gone freelance and the Church is not pleased. The Rev Jonathan Blake charges an hourly rate for baptisms, weddings and funerals, promotes himself in a glossy brochure and advertises in *Vogue*. He is happy to marry divorced people, gay couples and even atheists. Like Blake, the Rev Sturge-Arriss left the Church after his marriage broke up. Like Blake, he insists he is still a priest, though his bishop says he has no more authority than a struck-off doctor. Unashamed, Arriss continues to conduct baptisms and marriages, waiving a fee and suggesting only a voluntary donation. His charges for funerals are below the usual rate. The Church accuses him of undercutting it. He says he is promoting privatisation. Whether these mavericks are unique or part of a wider trend is not revealed.

Africa Express

Channel 4, 8.00pm

South Africa may be under black majority rule but the white mercenary is still in business. The programme highlights the activities of Executive Outcomes, a company based in Pretoria. It has been active in Angola and Sierra Leone sending "military advisers" to support the government side in the civil war. The company says it is promoting stability in these countries, but the South African authorities want to curtail its activities. The second report comes from Eritrea, which is trying to persuade a traditionally meat-eating population to switch to fish, of which there is plenty off the Red Sea coast. The Eritreans are unenthusiastic. The final film shows how interest from the West has sparked a revival of Zimbabwe's important indigenous musical instrument, the mbira.

Reputations: Muhammad Ali

BBC2, 9.00pm

Unlike other programmes in this series, this one offers no new slant or theory. What it does show is how the various sides of Muhammad Ali, boxer, Muslim convert and opponent of the Vietnam War, were intertwined. His public humiliation of Floyd Patterson and Ernie Terrell, two opponents who would not use his Muslim name, was shameful, a flip-side to the arrogance which helped to make him one of the best heavyweight champions. His allegiance to the Nation of Islam split the black civil rights movement. His refusal to fight in Vietnam was unappreciated by black soldiers who served there, as well as losing him three of his prime boxing years. For Ali, sport and politics could not be separated, however much admirers of his sleek and fluent ringcraft wished they could have been.

Undercover Britain: Football Touts

Channel 4, 9.00pm

A football fan, Gary Thompson, takes his hidden camera to Manchester United's ground, Old Trafford, and discovers touts selling £11 seats for £10. After the Taylor inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster, touting was made a criminal offence. Thompson's report suggests that the law is no deterrent. Even when offenders are charged, the fines are laughably small when a profitable week can net £20,000. The programme is illuminating as far as it goes. By posing as a tout Thompson is able to penetrate to the heart of the business and talk to the big operators. He does not, however, manage to track down the sources of the tickets, which are believed to lie within the club. But when he approaches United he gets a terse "no comment" from the club's solicitor.

Muhammad Ali in action (9.00pm)

CHOICE

Reputations: Muhammad Ali — More than Just a Boxer?

(Ceefax) (s) (2003)

10.00 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? More middle comedy adventures for George boys Rodney Bewes and James Bolam (r) (Ceefax) (3157)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (27995)

11.15 Late Review (s) (643138) WALES: 11.15 Wales 2006 — The Agenda (643128)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (41271)

12.30-7.15am The Learning Zone

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BOTICA ALIVE
AND KICKING
FOR CASTLEFORD

SPORT

THURSDAY MARCH 28 1996

RACING 43

VICTORIOUS CIGAR
TAKEN THE
DISTANCE IN DUBAI

Laboratory
defends
handling of
Modahl
specimen

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Lisbon laboratory at the centre of the controversy over Diane Modahl's drug test yesterday defended its handling of the British runner's urine sample. Professor Lesseps Reys, the scientific director, said the laboratory had "rigorously followed regulations and was always available to clear up the truth".

He was speaking after Modahl had been cleared on Monday by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) of any offence after failing a drugs test in Portugal in June 1994.

The IAAF council expressed "serious concern" over the way the Lisbon laboratory dealt with Modahl's sample and criticised officials for refusing a third test, which "could have provided a final resolution of this matter".

However, Reys said that accredited laboratories are required only to conduct a test on the A sample and counter-test on the B sample.

He said: "Under regulations, a third test, which was not foreseen, would have required a rescaling of the sample in proper conditions. This rescaling was not solicited by any of the experts present at the counter-test, including those representing the athlete."

He confirmed that the remainder of the B sample was not sufficient in quantity for a further test and added that the laboratory would offer it for further scientific investigation but not for a third analysis.

It was only after the second test had confirmed the exceptional testosterone-epitestosterone (T/E) ratio that the hearings of the British Athletic Federation (BAF) were held.

At the second of these, Modahl's advisers convinced the BAF panel that, because the sample had become contaminated after being left unrefrigerated after collection, the T/E ratio had been altered.

A third, different, test would have settled whether the high level of testosterone had been caused by the build-up of bacteria or from an illicit elevation of testosterone.

□ Anne Chagnaud, the French long-distance swimmer, has had a two-year suspension for a positive drugs test overturned on appeal. Chagnaud tested positive for etorphine in January 1995.

Illegal approach verdict upheld

United must pay fine for poaching

By DAVID MADDOCK

MANCHESTER UNITED have failed in their appeal against a fine of £20,000 imposed last month when they were found guilty of an illegal approach to David Brown, a 16-year-old player who was on schoolboy forms with Oldham Athletic. The original decision was upheld by a Football Association appeals panel yesterday and United were ordered to pay further costs.

It is a decision that has angered the club and Maurice Watkins, a Manchester United director and the club's solicitor, has called for an overhaul of the rules. His demand is likely to be met, with the FA Premier League revealing plans last night to review the statutes concerning young players. Changes could be made within the next two months.

Watkins believes that the rules are too ambiguous and he argued that the FA's verdict that United were guilty of poaching could not be made with any conviction. "The FA representative at the appeal said the same thing as we did," Watkins said. "He argued he had no alternative but to apply the rule to the letter, but admitted the rule was ambiguous, and hoped it would be clarified."

Watkins based his appeal on the fact that Brown had already turned down an offer of terms from Oldham, long before Manchester United was on international duty.

Scots celebrate 44

Slice of nostalgia 44

League and are likely to be amended. Judged under the proposed re drafted regulations, United would have been innocent.

Blackburn Rovers took their spending under Jack Walker, the club's benefactor, beyond the £40 million mark when they agreed a £1 million transfer fee for Gary Croft, the Grimsby Town left back.

Croft, an England Under-21 international, travelled to Ewood Park for talks yesterday and will complete his move this morning. Croft worked with Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, while he was on international duty.

made their approach. It was, he said, a clear indication that the rules needed changing. "There is absolutely no suggestion of any wrongdoing by United, and yet we have been found guilty. There is a lacuna within the rules which prevents the player from talking to other clubs, even when he doesn't want to stay with his original club."

"We now believe that the rules should be clarified because they are a mess. We hope that will be done within the next few months." A spokesman for the FA confirmed that the rules will be examined by the Premier

League and are likely to be amended. Judged under the proposed re drafted regulations, United would have been innocent.

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Bolton Wanderers have signed Scott Taylor, the Millwall forward, for an initial fee of £150,000. The 19-year-old has not yet completed a full season in the Endsleigh Insurance League with the London club. Preston North End have agreed to pay a club record fee of £200,000 for Gary Bennett, the Tranmere Rovers forward.

Faustino Asprilla, the Newcastle United striker, was yesterday named in the Colombia team to play Bolivia in Medellin today after apologising to Hernan Dario Gomez, the coach, for arriving nine hours late at the side's headquarters. Asprilla said he was delayed for family reasons.

Bournemouth face a winding-up order brought by the Customs and Excise over an unpaid VAT bill of almost £200,000. The second division club, already around £2 million in debt, has to find the money by Monday.

Ken Gardiner, the Bournemouth chairman, said yesterday: "This is not life-threatening but it is a problem we shall need to overcome. I cannot see us selling a player before the transfer deadline today, so it looks like we shall sit as a board of directors on Friday to discuss other ways of sorting this out. But arrangements are in hand to solve the problem."

Now, however, the sponsor, Alfred Dunhill, wants to move it from its traditional October slot to July as from 1997. There is concern that unless St Andrews Links Trust agrees, the event this autumn could be the last in St Andrews.

It is no secret that the sponsor has been eager to switch the tournament because

of the uncertainty of the weather so late in the year, and also to attract more of the world's leading players.

The last three-year contract ended on the eve of the 1995 event, although a one-year deal was eventually agreed between the links' administrators, the Internation-



Andre Agassi, seen here during his straight-sets win over the Canadian, Sébastien Lareau, at the Lipton championships in Florida yesterday, called for the world tennis schedule to be reduced from the present 33 events over 48 weeks to give players a break. He said that the pressure was becoming too intense and suggested that that the season might close after the US Open in September. "We don't have an off season," he

world No 3 added. "It makes no sense." Agassi's plea was supported by his countrymen, Pete Sampras, the world No 2, and Jim Courier. All three, together with Michael Chang, chose to drop out of the United States' Davis Cup tie in April, blaming schedule pressure. "There are too many tournaments," Agassi said. "If you add the Davis Cup, it becomes too much."

Americans on song, page 45

Dunhill Cup may switch to July

By A CORRESPONDENT

ST ANDREWS, perhaps the most famous golf course in the world, could be about to lose the Alfred Dunhill Cup — unless the event is switched from its usual autumn date to one in July.

The world's leading international team competition — it is Europe's richest tournament after the Open Championship — has been played over the Old Course since its inauguration in 1985.

Now, however, the sponsor, Alfred Dunhill, wants to move it from its traditional October slot to July as from 1997. There is concern that unless St Andrews Links Trust agrees, the event this autumn could be the last in St Andrews.

It is no secret that the sponsor has been

eager to switch the tournament because

of the uncertainty of the weather so late in the year, and also to attract more of the world's leading players.

The last three-year contract ended on the eve of the 1995 event, although a one-year deal was eventually agreed between the links' administrators, the Internation-

al Management Group, Dunhill and the European tour to hold the tournament from October 10 to 13 this year. However, it was seen only as buying time until a new three-year contract could be ironed out.

Nicky James, the trust general manager

er, said yesterday: "We have been told that the tournament will be held in July in future, so we have to decide whether the switch of dates is acceptable."

Last October, the Dunhill Cup attracted around 35,000 spectators, but that figure could easily be trebled if the event were switched to July. The organisers recognise, however, that it will not be possible to hold the event at St Andrews during July in a year when the Open Championship is played over the Old Course.

Peter German, the tournament director, said yesterday that because of the cold weather in October "it was getting increasingly difficult to get the star players".

Leading players may, however, regard the event as a distraction as they build up for the Open, which is traditionally held the third week in July.

Kiriakov finds spies in the camp

Russell Kempson on undercover efforts to help a Bulgarian into the Premiership

TO many in Britain, especially those with long memories, Bulgaria is no more than a distant land that has a penchant for poison-tipped umbrellas — to be used, occasionally, to dispose of those that displease it. A Bulgarian abroad, still, conjures images of clandestine meetings in the dead of night, a sort of James Bondish without the pretty female

adventures.

Ilian Kiriakov, 28, is no

shady East European,

bearing brochures of water-pistols — "I have other things as well, trust me" — and promises of a good deal as long as the payment is in dollars.

Kiriakov is a professional footballer and was in England this week with Bulgaria for their international match at Wembley last night.

He has, though, a colourful background. Not quite spy-thriller status, perhaps, but with sufficient intrigue to monitor closely his progress. He is over here, primarily, to

hawk his wares — himself — to the highest bidder. Kiriakov, like self-respecting footballers the world over, wants to play in England.

"He is small but very agile,"

a source from Sofia said. "He is a personal marker, you know? He is exceptional."

Apparently, he upset Paul Gascoigne, the England and Rangers midfield player, when he played against him for Anorthosis Famagusta, his club in Cyprus, in the preliminary round of the European Cup this season.

Kiriakov's credentials are impressive, mildly. He played in Bulgaria, for CSKA Sofia, and Spain, for Deportivo La Coruña and Mérida, before settling in Cyprus and has won 51 International caps.

Times are hard, though, and Anorthosis are trying to cash in on their most marketable

able asset, preferably before the transfer deadline today for FA Carding Premiership clubs. Thus, Paul Lenas, Kiriakov's Greek agent, who is based in Watford, naturally, is moving with stealth and speed.

"I think the fee we are looking for is around £1 million," Lenas said. "I have approached several Premiership clubs, officially, of course, and they have expressed interest."

Yet who are these mystery clubs? A mole in Sofia suggested Wimbledon, Rangers — the Glasgow variety — or Real Betis, of Spain. "Not the big clubs in the Premiership, more middle of the range,"

Lenas said. "Not Rangers, but Celtic once showed an interest."

What about Queens Park Rangers? "I think they are out

of money," he said. Wimbledon? "It is a matter of financing. They would probably have to sell Dean Holdsworth first." Who is it, then? "I am talking to a manager tonight. Then I will know more."

Moile II, in England, later

revealed that Sheffield

Wednesday, Aston Villa and

Wolverhampton Wanderers

could be nearer the mark. With two

Yugoslavs, a Belgian and a

Dutchman in his ranks,

David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, is not averse to imported talent.

Bulgarians in English foot

ball have not enjoyed the best

of success this season. Bobby

Mikhailov, the Reading goal-

keeper, and Boncho

Guenchev, the Luton Town

striker, are engaged in relegation

struggles in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division. Perhaps Kiriakov should look elsewhere for future employment. Anybody know a good umbrella shop?

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II Maître d'hôtel 12 Demure 13 Brecon 16 Folding money 19
Maudlin 20 Gusto 21 Dusk 22 Abcard
DOWN: 1 Much 2 Sarcasm 3 Chesterfield 4 Lackey 6 Whist
7 Gremlin 8 Mother tongue 12 Defamed 14 Chelsea 15 Agenda
17 Louis 18 Loud

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